

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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Driver dies in his cab after freak accident

A FREAK accident killed a lorry driver as he arrived at Oswestry's Argos store to make a delivery on Tuesday.

Heavy barriers at the entrance to the car park at the store entered his cab, crushing him.

Investigators removed a barrier from the scene of the accident and took photographs of the scene.

They are attempting to find out how the man, who is in his 60s, died at the entrance to the Smithfield car park in Oswestry.

Police have appealed for witnesses as they attempt to piece together evidence. Officers from the Health and Safety Executive and specialist police investigators were at the scene all day following the accident at around 7am.

No other vehicle is believed to have been involved. The Argos store was closed all day following the driver's death.

Steve Parry, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "We had two ambulances and an officer at the scene. Despite the efforts of medics, it became apparent to crews that nothing could be done to save a man who was confirmed dead at the scene."

Richard Ewels, of West Mercia Police, said: "The man was driving a delivery vehicle which is thought to have come into contact with a car park barrier."

Garage sale blamed on Tesco arrival

WELSHPOOL'S oldest petrol station has been sold, with owners WR Davies Motor Group blaming competition from supermarket giant Tesco.

The Salop Road Shell station has been sold to Petrogas UK. The business was being handed over today (Thursday).

In a letter to customers WR Davies managing director Jonathan Davies said: "Since Tesco opened in the town we have found that we have been unable to make an acceptable profit."

"Unfortunately Petrogas does not operate a local account system so customers will not be able to draw fuel on account after May 28."

Chronicle helping to keep town alive



Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer, Cynthia Hawksley, chairman of the Town Council markets and car parks committee, Graham Breeze, associate editor of The Chronicle, Councillor John Garath Jones, Mayor of Oswestry, Warren Appleby, fundraising manager for The British Heart Foundation and David Lee-Birch, Chronicle advertising manager at Powis Market Hall

OSWESTRY now has a network of life saving defibrillators in place thanks to Oswestry Chronicle readers and staff.

Less than 12 months after The Chronicle launched the "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign five defibrillators are now in place across the town.

Donations flooded into the newspaper office in Salop Road, companies handed over cash, staff ran half marathons and packed bags for supermarket shoppers at Christmas and even a local firm of undertakers helped fund the project.

Today defibrillators, aimed at providing rapid treatment for those suffering cardiac arrests, can be found at Powis Market Hall on The Bailey Head, The Wynnstey Hotel, Oswestry Senior Citizens Club in Lorne Street, The Chronicle offices in Salop Road and at Principality Building Society in Leg Street.

The campaign was launched in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation, West Midland Ambulance Service and The Oswestry & Border Chronicle.

The fund reached nearly £6,000 thanks to contributions from groups and organisation including Veolia employees, The Wynnstey Hotel, Oswestry Town Council, Principality Building Society, Midland News Association, Morris Cook Accountants, Oswestry Senior Citizen's Club, David Davies Undertakers and a final donation from The British Ironworks Centre.

Pupils at Meadows School raised £200 for the appeal by wearing their "Christmas jumpers" for a day at school while Year Six pupil Ethan Lee-Birch contributed another £305 by completing a sponsored swim at Oswestry Leisure Centre.

● Turn to pages 8 and 9



Paloma Faith to take stage at Osfest

CHART star Paloma Faith is among a host of established names added to the new-look Osfest bill.

She will be joined at the music festival at Oswestry Showground in August by other new additions including The Hoosiers, From the Jam, Bay City Rollers and Toyah.

They will feature alongside the existing line-up, which features the popular boy band Union J, Grammy Award-winner Foxes, number one hit artist Conor Maynard, current high-flyers Neon Jungle, Nina Nesbitt and Luke Friend.

The festival was due to take place this weekend but has been rescheduled to August 9 and 10.

Carly Woodward, Osfest director, said: "The charismatic Paloma Faith is cutting edge on both the stage and the DJ scene. We are really looking forward to her performance, what an amazing way to finish Saturday night."

Paloma's latest single Only Love Can Hurt Like This is currently in the official top 10. As an ex magician's assistant, trained contemporary dancer, St Martin's alumni with an MA in theatre directions, a performer in burlesque shows and an actress, she has been mixing artistic media throughout her short adult life.

Ms Woodward added that Osfest was also delighted to have the re-formed The Hoosiers on the line up.

Gorilla spoon statue is to stay for now

AN unique 13 foot high gorilla made from spoons is still in Oswestry after its manufacturers had to rethink their plans to transport it to celebrity Uri Geller's Thames-side home.

The huge sculpture was made at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry and it was planned to shift it to Mr Geller's house yesterday, but the gorilla will be hanging around for a while yet because they have to make a reinforced cage so it can travel down south in safety.

The sculpture was unveiled by Prince Michael of Kent earlier this month.

WIND ENERGY RULES ATTACKED

COUNCIL bosses say the renewable energy policy which led to a series of wind farm applications in Mid Wales is a "farce".

The criticism was made yesterday (Wednesday) as campaigners made their last pleas to a planning inspector to reject the wind farm plans.

The year-long planning inquiry, the longest of its kind in Wales, is reaching its final stages.

Inspector Andrew Poulter is expected to end the inquiry, which has been running at the Royal Oak Hotel in Welshpool since June, tomorrow.

Objectors and supporters are giving their closing submissions to the inquiry into plans for five wind farms and a related electrical line connection.

by Iain St John

The line would be needed to take energy generated at the wind farms to the national network at Lower Frankton near Oswestry.

In its closing submission to the inquiry, the North Montgomeryshire Local Council Forum, made of up town and community councils, criticised the national TAN8 policy which led to the wind farm applications. The policy sets out guidance on windfarms.

But forum secretary Robert Robinson said: "The whole saga of the TAN8 guidance and the progression to where we are today has been a farce. There has been confusion, exaggerating, minimising the effects and what appears to be a lack of understanding by the authorities."

Mr Robinson said the proposed wind farms amounted to "a reverse Robin Hood".

"Reverse because the schemes will rob the poor and give to the rich via subsidies which the local economy does not benefit from."

In their closing submissions, members of campaign group The Alliance outlined their worries yesterday over the impact the plans would have on tourism, the countryside, health, nature and transport.

Alliance member Steve Wood said the plans would "very seriously harm" the area's landscape.

And alliance member Jill Kibble said: "The evidence on the potential damage to the important tourism industry that is specific to North Powys is compelling and there is no evidence that there will be any significant compensatory local economic growth."

The inspector was expected to hear objections from Powys County Council and submissions from the power companies behind the plans before he concludes the inquiry tomorrow.

He is expected to make his recommendations to the Secretary of State for Energy, Ed Davey, later this year.



Robert Robinson

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PICTURE PREVIEW



At Oswestry Orthopaedic Orthopaedic they're advocating midwife led maternity units. Turn to page 6

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Man is sent to prison for assaulting teenage stepson

by Pam Kingsley

A man has been sentenced to nine months in prison after he admitted assaulting a teenager in Oswestry.

Carl Charles Doidge, of Hazel Grove, Oswestry, was due to stand trial for assault occasioning actual bodily harm at Shrewsbury Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday) but changed his plea before the trial began.

Members celebrate as YFC group turns 70

MEMBERS of Whittington and Oswestry Youth Farmers Club have celebrated the group's 70th anniversary in style.

The club has won numerous competitions this year, the highlight being the recent success in a regional entertainment competition.

Performing the modernised Romeo and Juliet tribute 'Shakespeare takes his shirt off', the club won the Shropshire round in February and hit the West Midland area rounds with a bang.

The club won it for the first time ever, with members Stephen Evans and Beth Ellis also winning best actor and actress.

The club proceeded to the southern finals where it was placed second, securing a place in the national finals in Blackpool and placing it in the top five clubs in the country.

The club will also hold a commemorative dinner dance to mark the group's 70th birthday at Oswestry Showground on June 27.

The 28-year-old, who had been in custody since the day after the assault on December 3, was sentenced to nine months in prison, of which he would serve half before being released on licence. As he had already served almost six months he was released from custody immediately. He was also ordered to pay a £100 victim surcharge.

Miss Elizabeth Power, prosecuting, said: "The complainant is in effect his stepson. They all lived together in Oswestry and the complainant had some friends over. They heard an argument between the defendant and the complainant's mother."

"When the mother left the house to collect the complainant's siblings from school matters turned a bit more violent. The defendant was shouting and went into the complainant's bedroom, which is a small room."

"A scuffle took place and clearly the defendant is larger than the complainant and used force which was, in his own words, over the top. As a result a plate became dislodged and struck the complainant to the head."

Miss Power said the 16-year-old suffered a small cut to one side of his face and red marks to his forehead and cheek.

Mr Philip Clemo, for Doidge, said the incident was a one-off.

Nurse statue sparks high interest



George Triggs at work on a different art piece. A video about the creation of his statue is on the hospital website

THE unveiling of a statue of an acclaimed Shropshire nurse is continuing to generate interest, bosses at the county's orthopaedic hospital say.

The bronze bust of matron Mary Powell was unveiled at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital earlier this month.

Her lifelike bust is the creation of 32-year-old sculptor George Triggs of Oswestry, a prize winning artist, trained in Wrexham, who has exhibited in London and locally.

He worked from black and white photographs of Mary Powell to create the stunning likeness.

Hospital spokeswoman Katrina Morphet said the new statue had sparked a lot of interest among staff.

She said: "Staff at the hospital have been viewing the statue in droves."

"One member of staff has produced a short film in his own time, showing the creation of the statue and Mary Powell's life story, narrated by her longtime friend Prof Stephen Eisenstein."

Film producer Jon Edwards who works in the hospital's medical illustration department, said: "It was a real honour to be able to make a film with

Prof Eisenstein about iconic nurse Mary Powell and her statue and also to be able to depict the creative genius of George Triggs."

Mary Powell was born at Pulverbatch, near Shrewsbury, in 1912 and died at Pontesbury in 2011 aged 98.

She was an eminent figure in local and national orthopaedic nursing for many years, and taught in the Indian subcontinent as adviser to the World Health Organisation.

The film can be viewed on the hospital's website at www.rjah.nhs.uk/Hospital-History-Films.aspx

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Town may see cash benefits from CCTV

A NEW CCTV system being installed in Oswestry town centre could be rolled out to other areas, bringing in funds for the market town.

One village has already agreed to sign up for cameras to help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and Oswestry Town Council, which is spearheading the project, hopes more contracts will follow, from local authorities or businesses.

It says the move could make the system in Oswestry self-funding. This week Selatyn and Gobowen parish council said it will be installing the new cameras in Gobowen village centre and by the railway station.

The old CCTV system was installed in Oswestry town centre in 2000, with the town council providing the capital to buy the cameras and sharing the running costs with firstly Oswestry Borough Council then Shropshire Council. The new cameras provide sharper pictures and better results in dim light.

Town mayor, Councillor John Gareth Jones, said: "Hopefully the new contract will be let in the next few weeks and we are looking at the possibility of providing our monitoring service to other local councils and our wider business community. Our aim is to make the scheme self-funding."

Walking date for ramblers

OSWESTRY Ramblers will be setting out on a nine-mile moderate walk from Buttington, taking in the Beacon Hill Fort, on Sunday.

The group will meet at Central car park in Oswestry for a 9.30am departure, or call 07805 161490 for more details.

Ironworks unveils new plans for knife 'angel'

by Iain St John

BOSSES behind a series of striking metal sculptures will be visiting crime-hit inner cities to convince street gangs to give up their knives and weapons.

The weapons will then be used by staff at the British Ironwork Centre to make a huge angel statue at its base at Aston, near Oswestry.

Church to bring back teddy bear zip wire

Church leaders are looking for brave teddy bears to take on a zipwire challenge from the top of the church tower to raise money to save its bells.

The bells of St Oswald's Parish Church in Oswestry need essential maintenance work, and following the success of a teddy bear zipwire challenge on Boxing Day, church members will repeat the event on June 7.

Tower captain Brian Rothera said: "Our bells need essential maintenance work costing £10,000. So far the Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers, St Oswald's Parochial Church Council and many generous individual donations, have raised all but £2,500.

"On June 7, the day of the church summer fair, visitors will be invited to climb the 102 steps to the roof where they can either launch their bears themselves or return to the church yard to catch them."

The zipwire will be open from 1pm.

Bosses hope the Save A Life, Surrender Your Knife campaign will eclipse its most recent high profile project which saw them build a 12 foot high gorilla sculpture made from spoons for entertainer Uri Geller.

Clive Knowles, the firm's managing director, said: "The gorilla project was great fun and it was fantastic to involve the community.

"But this new project is a lot more serious.

"We will be going to the inner cities of London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester and speaking to the streets gangs, the youths, and asking them to hand over their weapons to us so we can use them for something positive.

"In return we will give them specially made T-shirts and hoodies and we hope they will wear them and become ambassadors for the Save A Life, Surrender Your Knife campaign.

"We will be asking them to hand over the knives, their flick knives, their knuckle dusters, any weapon they use and get involved in the campaign.

"We really do want to make a big difference to society and gets these knives off the streets.

"The weapons will be used in the construction of the Angel Gabriel statue."

"It is clear we all have to do more about getting these weapons off the streets.

Volunteers call for traffic free link plan



Nigel Thomas at the site of the Pedestrian Link from Gobowen to Oswestry

VOLUNTEERS are being asked to come forward to help bring a plan to establish a traffic-free link between a town and one of its outlying villages to fruition.

Campaigner Nigel Thomas says he is looking for people to become part of a project group to make the ambition of a pedestrian link from Oswestry to Gobowen a reality.

Mr Thomas, 49, of Meadow Drive, Gobowen, has already won support from several schools and organisation for the concept.

He says the pathway could follow the line of the currently closed Cambrian railway from Gobowen to Oswestry and would bring about a safe route for pedestrians, wheel-

chair users and cyclists. Mr Thomas said he first got involved in the project three years ago after attending a meeting about sustainable transport options.

He said: "Shropshire Council was given £5 million to spend on local sustainable transport projects.

"One suggestion was a link from Gobowen to Oswestry, it had been an idea the council had had for some time.

"The railway line route is suitable because the land around it is fairly even."

"There were 92 vehicles crossing that bypass in two minutes - it is that busy and difficult to cross.

"This project would help them get into town from Gobowen and back again safely."



Nigel Thomas

NEWS in brief

Bargain Hunt to visit Oswestry

FILM crews will be visiting Oswestry to record episodes of the BBC's Bargain Hunt show.

Presenter Tim Wonnacott and his team of experts and participants will be visiting the antiques and collectors fair at Oswestry Showground to try to find some hidden gems among the hundreds of stalls expected.

The fair will be held on June 7 and 8 and Sheila Jackson, spokeswoman for organisers Amulet Fairs, said they were delighted that the filming crew would be paying them another visit.

Mrs Jackson said: "The size of the fair allows Bargain Hunt's recording team to record several episodes in one weekend of filming."

Crews called out to vehicle blaze

A CAR was made safe by firefighters after its dashboard went up in flames.

A fire crew from Oswestry was called to the car on Cabin Lane in Oswestry. On arrival they found the fire had been partially put out using dry powder extinguishers.

The crew used a hose reel jet, breathing apparatus and a thermal imaging camera to completely extinguish the fire within 15 minutes.

The crew was sent to the scene at about 5.30pm on Sunday and found the interior on fire.

Macmillan to host information day

CANCER Support's mobile information service will be visiting Oswestry next week to provide a free cancer information service to members of the public.

A team of information and support specialists will be on board at Bailey Head on Wednesday from 10am to 3pm.

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- We make the short journey to the city of Caen. Enjoy free time in this remarkable, restored city famous not only for its wartime associations, but also for the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, founded by William the Conqueror. In the early afternoon, we make our way to the medieval city of Bayeux with the opportunity for a glimpse of the world famous tapestry as well as the ancient cathedral.

- Our day will take us to the well-preserved city of Rouen, with its magnificent cathedral and large pedestrianised centre lending themselves well to a spot of exploration. In the late morning, we continue to the beautiful Monet's Gardens, to admire some of the most iconic scenes in the whole of France. Marvel at the idyllic gardens and informative exhibition detailing the life of this most famous artist.

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NEWS

Rate relief scheme for Powys business owners

By Andrew Morris

BUSINESSES in Mid Wales are being urged to apply for a discount which could see rates slashed under a £590,000 scheme.

Powys County Council said The Wales Retail Relief Scheme will provide a discount up to £1,000 for retailers and food and drink premises with a rateable value of less than £50,000.

The Welsh Assembly has given the council £590,000 to help businesses flourish in the area. The scheme will run for the financial year 2014/15 and the council is urging as many people as possible to sign up for a reduction. Councillor Rosemarie Harris, cabinet member responsible for regeneration at the council, said: "The council will be writing to potential qualifying retail businesses in the county inviting them to apply for this discount."

Free mortgage advice on offer

AN Oswestry estate agent is holding an open day when free mortgage advice will be on offer.

Town and Country Estate Agents are hosting a "for one day only" free mortgage advice open day on Saturday, June 7.

The company is inviting anyone looking for mortgage advice to go for a free consultation and no broker fee should you decide to arrange your mortgage with them, saving costs of up to £295.

"Since the widely reported Mortgage Market Review (MMR) introduced its revised criteria for mortgage lending at the end of April, there has never been a better time to seek independent mortgage advice," said Richard Ellis, Town & Country director.

"We want to offer our clients the option of an all encompassing service and I believe we are able to do just that!"

For more information or to book an appointment call (01691) 679631.

"I'm delighted the Welsh Government has introduced this scheme and I would urge our retail premises that qualify to apply for this discount."

"The retail sector is changing and many high streets are having to adapt to changing consumer preferences in how people shop. This scheme aims to support Powys businesses that are responding to the challenges that result from this changing retail environment."

"Not only will it provide assistance to many businesses during this current economic situation, it will also inject money into the Powys economy, support jobs and contribute to the development of sustainable and vibrant town centres."

"We will continue to work closely with the Welsh Government to deliver real economic benefits for the Powys economy."

It is the second boost to the Mid Wales economy this week with the Welsh Assembly's economy minister Edwina Hart confirming funding for 25 new start-up businesses across Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes and the surrounding areas.

Sun shines on hill walkers



Mark Hardy with his son Ben, ready for the bike ride which is part of the hill walk weekend

WALKERS, runners, cyclists and spectators converged on Trefonen near Oswestry to enjoy the village's Hill Walk Weekend.

The event, which began more than 20 years ago as a walk around the hills of Trefonen to raise money for a charity in Africa, has grown into a whole weekend of events to raise money for multiple causes.

Helen Francis, one of the organisers, said that Monday's weather was a blessing after the rain of Saturday and Sunday.

"We have had great weather on the final day and hundreds of people of all ages have taken part."

"We have even had several people who remember going on the walks as children, who are now bringing along their own."

She said the pop up cafe at the New Barns Farm had been inundated all day.

This year the money raised has been shared between the NSPCC and the Kenyan Schools Project.

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You are invited to come along for an informal chat with Anna and allow her to answer any queries or concerns you may have regarding any aspect of mortgages...



Plans for chicken sheds to go ahead

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to build three massive chicken sheds housing hundreds of thousands of birds look set to be given the green light.

Great Ness Poultry Ltd, which runs from Kinton Farm in Nesscliffe, Shrewsbury, already has four poultry sheds. But bosses of the firm have requested planning permission to put up another three, along with eight new feeding bins.

Great Ness Parish Council has objected to the plans on the grounds it would cause increased traffic on roads around the farm, be an eyesore in a picturesque rural area and cause problems with noise and odour for residents.

Baschurch Parish Council has also objected, along with 13 villagers.

They say the existing units on the farm are already a "blot on the landscape" and that further units would be an "abomination and an eyesore".

Another said there was an "unpleasant stench" coming from the four existing units and expressed concerns about HGV lorries thundering through the village at all hours of the day.

But despite the objections, planning officers at Shropshire Council are recommending approval.

Protest meeting to attack pylon plans

A PUBLIC meeting to protest against plans to site pylons across the countryside will be held next Thursday.

The June 5 meeting will be held at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry and Clive Knowles, managing director of the centre, said that putting pylons across its land will ruin the sculpture park

currently being created.

The centre has plans to open a new 70-acre sculpture park on land between its site off the A5 and Queens Head after gaining more than 20 sculptures from the Museum of Iron sculpture in Ironbridge when it closed last year.

But Mr Knowles said if the pylons go ahead then it could have a severe impact on the success of the sculpture park.

He said: "We are very pleased that Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has agreed to speak at the meeting. Charles Green of SNAP and Jonathan Wilkinson of MAP, both campaign groups, will also talk."

"We want to raise greater awareness of the pylons coming across Shropshire, which will definitely impact on tourism. It's absolutely horrendous."

"To have the land here, to have the metalwork ex-

by Sue Austin

perts here and the museum of sculpture which we're going to create, and to have the desire and the drive to do the project without asking for a penny from anyone else, and then to be told that you're going to have a monstrous latticework pylon in the middle of it is unbelievable."

"What we are saying is that National Grid is not going to be permitted to come across here. No matter how many people we have to raise in order to support this we will not allow the pylons to come across the national sculpture park."

"We have also suggested that the we could create a giant stag sculpture which could carry the overhead line. This is something which has been done in Sweden. It is disappointing that, so far, the energy company has not supported any of our suggestions."

Continental market is a hit



Mayor John Gareth Jones and David Clough.

OSWESTRY'S Love your Local Market event was in full swing at the weekend with a speciality continental market on the streets.

The town council has been championing markets this month with a host of events which were set up to bring new traders and new customers to the stalls.

On Friday the Bailey Head will be celebrating local produce, with the monthly Farmers' Market.

The continental market saw a selection of food and craft stalls from all over Europe on sale, with stalls selling fresh bread, olives, cheeses, pastries, sausage and even some crafts.

"There were stalls from Germany, Poland, France, England, Turkey and Italy," mayor, Councillor John Gareth Jones said.

"Although the weather could have been kinder there was still an excellent turnout on Saturday and Oswestry looks forward to the return of the Savoir Fayre Continental Market on September 5 and 6."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

IT'S A sad day for Welshpool with news that the town's oldest petrol station is changing hands with the owners blaming super-market competition.

WR Davies, the town's oldest garage business, is selling to forecourt giant Petrogas UK and that means an end for generations of families who have filled up at the Salop Road site.

Founded in Berriew 90 years ago the company closed its Newtown petrol forecourt last year and has now sold out in Welshpool with the owners saying they can not compete with the prices offered at the nearby Tesco store.

The downside for customers, both private and business, is that new owners Petrogas do not offer account facilities – another blow to motorists.

WR Davies is by no means the first and certainly will not be the last petrol station to close its pumps. For years the industry has been bemoaning the fact that there is very little profit in a litre of petrol and that forecourts are only staying open as the result of other sales, such as sweets and groceries.

But the sale is yet another example of private business in Welshpool being unable to compete with giant superstore prices.

Petrogas for example have a network of 40 stations meaning their buying power is enormous.

We are witnessing a huge shift in our lifestyles with superstores, out of town shopping centres and more importantly the Internet changing the way we live for ever.

I really can't help feeling that the year-long planning enquiry into proposed windfarms in Mid Wales has been a complete and utter waste of time and money – our money.

Council bosses are now claiming that the entire renewable energy policy which led to wind-farm applications was a farce. And Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies is bullish in his claims that the whole case for on-shore wind farms will be scrapped anyway.

Chronicle readers have really come up with the goods and supported our campaign to set up a network of defibrillators across the town.

Since we launched the appeal I have been amazed at the generosity and support offered by so many people to ensure we completed the scheme – and we have.

The network of five defibrillators are now in place. It is to be hoped that they will never need to be used but if they are needed Oswestry is now ready to cope.



Midwife Sarah Calcott with baby Arthur Bajcer at Oswestry Orthopaedic



Maternity manager Lousie Norton on the ward at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Maternity Unit



Midwife Sarah Calcott with baby Arthur Bajcer at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital

WORKING FOR YOU



Glyn Davies MP

Over the last year or so, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) has shaken up British politics – the culmination of which was last week's elections to the European Parliament.

In the UK, UKIP topped the poll. While this was perhaps expected from opinion polling over the last month, such electoral success would have been beyond wild dreams of only a year ago. I write this article as reflecting on what this UKIP surge tells about UK politics and where we go from here.

Let's consider Wales, where UKIP surprised even me. Wales has been virtually a Labour controlled one party state for almost 100 years, and there has been a sense that Wales was much more EU-friendly than England. Well, not any more.

That myth has been blown apart last week. UKIP and Labour finished neck and neck in Wales, an astounding result for UKIP.

Wales is as sceptical about the EU as anywhere else, despite the billions of EU subsidies poured in over last 20 yrs.

And let's consider rest of Europe. Parties similar to UKIP made huge gains across the EU. In France, astonishingly, the National Front topped the poll. The UKIP surge is just part of a wider EU-wide concern about the growing dominance of a Brussels based arrogant non-listening undemocratic bureaucracy.

There must be a major change of attitude if the EU is to survive in its present form. The people of Britain, including those living in Wales and Shropshire have told us very clearly that they want a say on whether to remain part of the EU. Conservative MPs are committed to giving them what they want. Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs are determined to stop us.

I hope they react to what the voters have said by changing their minds, and agreeing to back an EU referendum as soon as we can sensibly arrange it. Across Europe, people want a change in how the EU operates, deregulating, and ending unnecessary intrusion into matters that should be left to member states. Let's get on with reforming how the EU works, and prepare for a vote on whether the UK wants to be a part of it.

Orthopaedic hospital now setting maternity agenda

Guidelines on just where women should have their babies have now changed. SUE AUSTIN investigates

THE national guidelines on where women should have their babies have changed, suggesting that those who are at low risk when giving birth should make midwife led maternity units their first choice.

In Shropshire midwives have been advocating just that for more than 30 years. The county pioneered the way for low intervention births in the late 1970s.

Now one of the county's leading midwives has pledged to once again put Shropshire at the top of the charts for midwife led maternity units.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence says that hospital labour wards with doctors should only be for difficult cases, otherwise there is a danger of over-intervention.

As well as its one consultant maternity unit, currently at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, soon to be moved to the Princess Royal at Telford, Shropshire has five low risk units, at Shrewsbury, Telford, Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry.

Leading

The latter at the Orthopaedic Hospital has recently undergone a transformation and is already seen as a leading light across the country in giving women a pleasurable experience of giving birth.

The labour room is unrecognisable to most womens' memories - of a stark medical room with a hospital bed and an array of scary looking machines.

Instead the bed looks more like a sofa, with a purple throw and pillows resembling cushions in one corner and the



Lead Midwife Wendy Cutchie in the birthing room

walls decked with huge murals of gentle seascapes and sunsets.

Low lighting includes flickering candles, battery operated for health and safety, on the window ledge, and there is also what looks like a luxury bath, but is in fact a birthing pool, complete with integral underwater lighting.

It was the room that made Emma Bajcer chose to travel from her home in Church Stretton to give birth to her son Arthur Flynn, in the Oswestry unit, after using another outreach service, the ante natal check ups at the Church Stretton medical centre.

"I work in Oswestry and visited a friend at the unit. I knew immediately that is where I wanted to have my baby."

"It was really relaxed and chilled out and, although I ended up having to be transferred to Shrewsbury because my

labour was so long, I was able to return within hours to recuperate and get to know Arthur in Oswestry."

Husband James said: "The midwives were wonderful and proved a great support for me and Em to help make it our own experience. It was all very natural and I was able to play a role in Arthur's birth."

Wendy Cutchie took charge of Shropshire's midwife led units 18 months ago.

"My aim is to de-clinicalise the midwife led units and turn them into the gold standard of midwifery care," she said.

In the 1970s Shropshire paved the way for midwife led units, with the county's rurality meaning there had to be local places where women could have their babies. But unfortunately we have stood still since then.

"I want as many women as possible to have the ultimate experience of giving birth, to make our units, home from home."

She said the midwife led units were also much more than places for giving birth.

Women attend both ante natal and post natal appointments, have scans and can ring up for advice at any time.

"We may have someone who is worried about baby not moving or unsure whether she is in labour or it maybe that after she has given birth and gone home she is struggling with breast feeding."

Check

"We are able to not only give advice over the phone but say 'why don't you pop in and we can check you over or come down when the next feed is due and we can look at what is going on.'"

"There is always someone available to put minds at rest."

"We have wonderful teams in our midwife led units, led by managers that are so enthusiastic."

Wendy is now encouraging the units to follow Oswestry's lead and make their labour rooms more relaxed.

"The NHS can go so far but its those extra touches, the pictures on the walls, a small throw to disguise a piece of equipment, even simply battery candles, that make all the difference."

She is hoping friends groups can be set up to raise funds for the units.

People can donate to the midwife led units through the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Just Giving page or through fundraising@sath.nhs.uk.

The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH) is a leading orthopaedic centre of excellence. A specialist hospital with a reputation for innovation, the Trust provides a comprehensive range of musculoskeletal (bone, joint and tissue) surgical, medical and rehabilitation services.

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AM I ENTITLED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK FOR ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING?

Q: I currently have a job in an accounts department but I want to try and get some proper qualifications in accountancy. I have found a course but it is not local and so will require me having some time off work to do it. My employer, however, won't agree to that. Do I have any rights?

A: All employees, with the exception of certain groups such as agency workers, have the right to request unpaid time off from work for training purposes, provided they have worked continuously for 26 weeks for the firm to whom they are making the request.

You must make your request in writing, stating that: the application is being made under Section 63D of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the nature of the training, where and when it takes place, who is providing or supervising it and what if any qualification it leads to. You should also outline how you think the training will improve your effectiveness within the business and the performance of the business as a whole. There is no limit to the duration of the training and your request can cover more than one type of training, although only one application can be made in any 12 month period.

Your employer must accept your written request or arrange a meeting to discuss the request within 21 days of receiving it. Following discussion your employer can approve or refuse the request, but must give you a written decision within 14 days. A written approval must include certain details e.g. the type of training, whether it will be paid for. A written refusal must provide a right of appeal and state any statutory reasons for refusal, e.g. it will not improve your effectiveness.

It may be wise to ask a solicitor to review your draft application or comment on any decision.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer a FREE legal diagnostic clinic every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation



Thanks to all who ran for our cause

I would like to thank the 145 runners who ran for The Children's Trust in this year's Virgin Money London Marathon in April and have so far helped raise over £265,000! I would like to thank our celebrity runners - TV and radio presenter Jenni Falconer, celebrity milliner Louis Mariette and Britain's Got Talent impressionist Philip Green.

The Children's Trust, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. The money raised from the marathon will help enhance the lives of these children.

Applications are now open to join The Children's Trust London Marathon 2015 team. So, if you've always wanted to tick it off your bucket list, apply now. We'll support you on the lead-up to the big day with expert advice on training. Plus, on the day, we'll have cheering points along the course and an after-party to celebrate with you and your supporters. One of the team said: "Running past your cheer points gave me a big boost and kept me going."

For details visit: www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/londonmarathon

We also have places in the Paris and Brighton Marathons. For details on all the runs and to register visit: www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/run Once again, a huge thank you to all the runners.

BRYONY EIDA
The Children's Trust

Solution to traffic woe

MORE than 90 per cent of Oswestry's town centre road traffic weighs less than three tonnes, therefore, Oswestry's old railway line should be converted into a three tonnes 'rabbit run' Monday to Saturday, linking Maesbury Road, Shrewsbury Road, Salop Road, Middleton Road, Sainsbury's, Oswald Road, Gobowen Road and Whittington Road.

All day Sunday the 'rabbit run' can be closed to road traffic, for the Cambrian Heritage Railway.

NIGEL J BOWER
Ellesmere

Stamp of approval for your efforts

I AM writing to say thank you for collecting stamps to help our fundraising efforts by helping us collect as many stamps as possible.

Any amount, large or small, is much appreciated and I can assure you that every stamp you send will help raise money for the Royal National Institute of Blind People.

Stamps can be sent directly to my buyer at RNIB, PO Box 6198, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9XT to save my loft space and we raise 25 per cent more money this way. Please do not send correspondence to this address.

We have in the financial year of 2013-2014 managed to raise an amazing £24,605! We had a couple of fantastic results at stamp auctions, which helped us reach this amount, but we are again over the next year aiming to reach another £20,000. Please ask your family and other contacts to save their stamps for us and if possible can they be cut or torn with approximately 0.5 - 1cm of envelope surrounding the stamp to prevent damage. If stamps have the perforations cut off they are worthless.

Stamps should be separated into

three categories, British, pre-decimal and foreign. Anything outside mainland Britain is classed as overseas. The stamps do not have to be sorted into individual countries or prices.

Please do not remove the stamp off the envelope as they are damaged easily if they are. We are desperate for more contacts to send us their stamps in Great Britain and overseas so please spread the word of our appeal to anyone and everyone.

TERRI BUSH
Volunteer Stamp
Appeal Co-ordinator

Ellesmere's league and cup double



The Ellesmere FC team which were Whitchurch League Champions and League Cup winners in the 1956 to 1957 season. The photo comes from Gordon Willocks, of Shrewsbury. He thinks it was taken at the back of the Black Lion at Ellesmere

We should learn from sad death

I FOUND your article (May 22) about the inquest of a 21 year old young man who had taken his own life very disturbing.

It said that he had no family, few friends and was sleeping in a garage. Was this young man known to the authorities and the appropriate charities such as Foodbank?

If he was what steps were taken to ensure his wellbeing?

Cases such as this do occur in large urban areas but when it happens in a small market town like Oswestry it's all the more tragic.

Perhaps we should all look, listen and learn from this very sad case.

DAVID T. CASEWELL
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU
FAX 01952 254605
E-MAIL letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Thanks to the voters who kept us as MEPs

ON behalf of all of the Conservative candidates in the European Elections, may I use your columns to thank all those who voted for our team and, as a result, helped re-elect me and my colleague, Philip Bradbourn.

The elections clearly showed that most people agree with us that Britain's relationship with the EU needs real change so that it works for Britain. Philip and I are determined to continue to deliver that message and to represent the interests of the West Midlands in Brussels.

I look forward to continuing the work I have been doing on behalf of constituents and businesses and to promoting the West Midlands at every opportunity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me (anthea@antheamcintyre.com or 01989 769544) if I can be of assistance.

ANTHEA MCINTYRE, Conservative MEP

UKIP create a political earthquake

UKIP has created an earthquake in politics, gaining dozens of seats in the European Elections, and will make a significance change in the politics world.

The leader of UKIP will be a serious player at the next general election in 2015 and it would be foolish to dismiss the UKIP surge as a flash in the pan after strong results in the local and Euro elections.

Perhaps we really are at the start of the era of four party politics.

Mr Farage has a substantial opportunity, but he knows that a general election is a very different beast and that dislodging incumbent MPs is a bigger task.

EIRIANWEN MORRIS-JONES
Welshpool

LETTERS Bank rule is hitting those on a pension

BEING one of the 11 million pensioners in the UK, and one who has traditionally saved, and provided a private pension over the years, I visited my bank, Lloyds TSB in Welshpool.

Like other banks I can only assume have coerced and conspired to get potential investors in savings to part with a hard earned cash, with the following conditions.

I currently have Vantage accounts, as from July changes offering four per cent which sounds very attractive under present conditions, until Lloyds and many other banks as I have discovered, thrust upon you the following.

To receive four per cent on each account must have two direct debits, which has been cleverly designed by someone in the accounts department to ensure pensioners such as myself, no longer have a multitude of direct debits.

To get the message across I give you an example as quoted today by the manageress on investment of £15,000 my gross annual return is £600, which I find obscene, when banks on overnight money such as mine and others make fortunes.

DAVE COPPARD
Arddleen

Action call over Egypt

WHAT, if anything, are we doing about the situation in Egypt? We impose sanctions against Russia for their actions in Ukraine but not against Egypt.

The military there overthrew the democratically elected government, imprisoned their leaders and arrested hundreds of their supporters. They have also banned them from taking part in the election.

The West preaches democracy but has done nothing, as far I can see, to condemn what has happened. Where are the sanctions? Is this a case of double standards?

TERRY HILLIER
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Praise for Chronicle's campaign

by Sue Austin

HIGH praise for The Chronicle's "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign came from The British Heart Foundation and West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust this week.

The Chronicle's campaign has seen a total of five potentially life-saving defibrillators stationed across Oswestry town centre and the newspaper's partners in the scheme paid tribute to the efforts.

Speaking after the official handing over of the units this week Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer said the defibrillators were badly needed in the town.

"Bystander CPR is incredibly important because having people on hand who know what to do is crucial," he said.

Training

"Specialist training in basic life support skills can and really does save lives. The earlier someone suffering from a cardiac arrest receives CPR and defibrillation, the greater the chance of survival.

"Even though we have an ambulance based in Oswestry now every minute without treatment means 10 per cent less chance of survival for a patient."

Mr Foster completed defibrillator training for staff at The Chronicle, Wynnstey Hotel and The Principality Building Society along with volunteers at Oswestry Senior Citizens Club.

"We teach people very simple, basic procedures. They are simple, effective and they work. What we teach is how to manage a person who has collapsed, how to do oxygen therapy and how to use a defibrillator.

"The campaign was a brilliant idea by The Chronicle team and the West Midland Ambulance Trust was more than pleased to be involved."

Warren Appleby, Shropshire fundraising



Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer, Sebastian Siddi, manager of the Wynnstey Hotel, Graham Breeze, associate editor of the Oswestry and Border Chronicle and Warren Appleby, fundraising manager for The British Heart Foundation in Shropshire.

manager for The British Heart Foundation, said: "This is a very positive scheme and the British Heart Foundation is pleased to be associated with The Chronicle and the West Midland Ambulance Service Trust.

"We were delighted to be able to part fund the purchase of the defibrillator units and it is great to see them sited in key locations in Oswestry town centre

Donations flooded into the newspaper's office in Salop Road, companies handed over cash, staff ran half marathons and packed bags for supermarket shoppers at Christmas and

even a local firm of undertakers helped fund the project.

Defibrillators, aimed at providing rapid treatment for those suffering cardiac arrests, can be found at Powis Market Hall on The Bailey Head, The Wynnstey Hotel, Oswestry Senior Citizens Club in Lorne Street, The Chronicle offices in Salop Road and at Principality Building Society in Leg Street.

Chronicle associate editor Graham Breeze said: "The people of Oswestry have taken The Chronicle to their hearts and with the support of our readers and advertisers we have been

able to mark our third birthday by erecting the defibrillators.

"The response to the campaign was remarkable and now the town centre has a network of potentially life saving units in place along with teams of trained people able to use them."

Chronicle advertisement manager Dave Lee-Birch said: "It was a very proud moment to see the defibrillator units in place. If only one life is saved as the result of this campaign it will all have been worthwhile."

Cardiac arrests and heart attacks affect an estimated 111,000 people each year in England



Warren Appleby, Fundraising Manager for The British Heart Foundation and representatives of Senior Citizens Centre Ian Morris, Anne Wilson Mike Smith and Margaret Howell. Front left, Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer and David Lee-Birch, advertising manager at the Oswestry and Border Chronicle.

alone. Over 75,000 people die each year in the UK from sudden cardiac arrest but with rapid treatment from a defibrillator, around 85% could be saved.

Buying and siting defibrillators cost in excess of £1,500 per unit but thanks to the Chronicle's partnerships with the Heart Foundation and the Ambulance Service these costs were reduced.

Midland News Association, owners of The Chronicle funded the first defibrillator to be located at 14 Salop Road.

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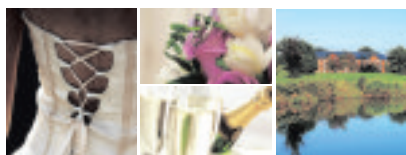
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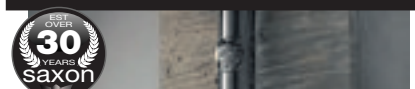
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Mayor welcomes heart machines

by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S new mayor branded The Chronicle's "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign as a "brilliant idea" this week.

Councillor John Gareth Jones was speaking after the official unveiling of the defibrillator at Powis Market Hall on Bailey Head on Tuesday.

"This was a brilliant idea for a badly needed service in Oswestry," he said. "The Chronicle, The British Heart Foundation and West Midlands Ambulance service are to be congratulated on providing this life saving equipment for the people of Oswestry."

"The defibrillator is placed in the most prominent position possible on the front of Powis Hall."

Cynthia Hawksley, chairman of Oswestry Town Council's markets and car parks committee, said the council was pleased to have been able to support the appeal.

"The campaign was a very worthy effort and as a council we were delighted to be able to provide the financial support to help make things happen."

Qualified

"On top of that council staff have now been on first aid courses and are qualified to use the defibrillator."

Other organisations have been quick to voice support for the campaign.

The British Ironworks came in with some late funding to help finalise the purchase of the defibrillator cases.

"The appeal is a great idea and for a very worthy cause," said Clive Knowles of the British Ironworks Centre. "We are really pleased to have been able to contribute and help ensure the orders could be placed."

"We are pleased to be associated with this campaign," said Wynnstay Hotel manager Sebastian Siddi.

"There is a real need for defibrillators in



Graham Breeze, associate editor of the Oswestry and Border Chronicle, Harriet Fallon, Principality manager, Daniel Graham, sales negotiator, Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer and Warren Appleby, fundraising manager for The British Heart Foundation

Oswestry and we have already got staff qualified to use the equipment which will not only be available for the leisure centre and hotel but also for the general public."

"It is a great idea to supply a much needed service for the town and Morris Cook Accountants are pleased to be able to support the scheme," said Andrew Clark.

Kate Woodhead of The Principality said: "We are pleased to be able to contribute towards the cost and offer to house a defibrillator in our town centre offices. The more machines there

are in town the better for us all."

"I saw the campaign in The Chronicle and on Facebook and thought it was a fantastic idea," said Dave Scott of Veolia who persuaded his team of Oswestry bin men to spend their bonus money supporting the scheme.

"When I asked the rest of the team what they thought about us donating money to the cause they were 100% behind the idea and we were glad to be involved."

"We have to be very safety conscious both on the road and at the depot and already have



Warren Appleby, fundraising manager for The British Heart Foundation, Graham Breeze, associate editor of the Oswestry and Border Chronicle and Terry Foster, West Midlands Ambulance Service community paramedic officer.

our own defibrillator based at our Maesbury Road depot."

Chronicle associate editor Graham Breeze paid tribute to the individuals and companies who had come forward to support the campaign.

"Without the support of the community it would not have been possible to raise the sort of money we needed," he said.

"A lot of work has gone into the campaign and it is now very satisfying to see the defibrillators sited around the town."



Ben Knowles of the British Ironworks Centre and Marcus Evans of The Chronicle



The life saving equipment at Powis Market Hall

"Everyone at The Chronicle is grateful to those who have contributed along with the British Heart Foundation and West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust."

"Thanks go to advertisement manager Dave Lee-Birch, who came up with the idea after losing a close relative to a heart condition and has been the real driving force."

"But the biggest thanks of all goes to community paramedic officer Terry Foster who has supported us from day one. Without his dedication the scheme could not have been possible."



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NEWS
in brief

Author makes final call to entertainers

THE final call has gone out for entertainers past or present from Mid Wales to come forward for a new book.

Alan Crowe wants people who have entertained in any way to contact him so he can include their story in his new book, *Entertaining Mid Wales and Beyond*. He said: "DJs, singers, groups, children's entertainers and any others are asked to get in touch."

Contact Mr Crowe on 07782 166342 or alan60s@live.com

Football tourney fun at school fair

A SUMMER fair is being held by Maesydre School on June 14 - and entries are being invited now for a children's football tournament to run alongside it.

The event from noon to 4pm features family entertainment including stalls, a bouncy castle, face painting and games, as well as the under-9 and under-11 football tournament.

Entries for the six-a-side competition need to be sent to Jo Ellis on 07725 027106

Craft sessions on in half term

FREE games, crafts, dressing up and woodland activities will be on offer for half term in a town in Mid Wales. Play Montgomeryshire will be holding sessions in Welshpool.

Sun comes out for town to enjoy the carnival fun

by Sue Austin

THE sun shone and people came out in their hundreds for Welshpool Carnival on Monday.

The streets were lined with spectators as the carnival procession left Berriew Street to wind through the town centre's one-way system bringing traffic to a halt on its way to the Maesydre Recreation Ground.

From Berriew Street the procession snaked its way up Broad Street and High Street, delighting the cheering crowds on its way around the town and back to the cross before leading the way to the Maesydre.

Clerk hits out over market

COMMENTS about Welshpool Market Hall by Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate Jane Dodds sparked a row this week.

She claimed that despite £47,000 being spent in 2011 through the European Regional Development Fund and further work as a part of the Severn Valley Regeneration Programme, several factors have impacted trade, including the one-way system.

But Town Clerk Robert Robinson has questioned her comments citing that a number of new traders are due to move in soon. Following her visit, Mrs Dodds, who will run against Glyn Davies next year, said: "It saddens me how the traders in the market itself have been so negatively impacted by the one-way system, the expensive parking in town, and the lack of proper signage."

Mr Robinson said: "The market is doing fairly well with more people going through and new traders about to move in."

Carnival Queen Jade Victoria Jones from Leighton View, and her attendants Laura Gittins from Woodside, Molly Robinson-Harding from Heulwen Way and Jerame Chave from Erw Wen waved to the watching crowd before the crowning ceremony.

The star of the show, a huge 'robot' Titan - entertained children and adults alike with his antics on the playing fields.

Success

Secretary of the Welshpool Carnival committee, Trish Hodges said the day had been very successful.

"We must thank everyone who supported the carnival, all those worked so hard to make it a success and those who came along on the day," she said.

The carnival had to be cancelled in 2012 when its traditional date coincided with the jubilee weekend. Miss Hodges said: "We could not find a date that year so we had no alternative but to not hold it."

Montgomeryshire MP, Glyn Davies helped to judge the carnival floats. He said: "The procession around town was led by a brilliant 'samba' band in glorious sunshine. Welshpool could be mistaken for Rio."



Batala Bermo Samba Band entertain crowds at Welshpool Carnival on Monday

Driving workshops for the over-55s

OLDER drivers in Mid Wales will be offered motoring workshops free of charge.

The Mature Motoring classes, for people aged over 55, will be an informal two-hour session delivered by Powys County Council's road safety unit.

The workshops will focus on issues such as driving licence requirements, personal safety while driving, winter driving, the dangers of drink driving and not wearing seatbelts.

The classes take place from 10am on July 28 in Welshpool, July 29 in Llanfyllin, July 30 in Newtown and July 31 in Llanidloes.

Workshop attendees will also be offered the chance to take part in a free, one hour practical drive with an approved driving instructor.

Councillor John Powell, the council's cabinet member responsible for road safety, said: "We hope that these free courses will help preserve and conserve valuable driving skills and make drivers more aware of what influences our driving, ultimately leading to a reduction in collisions and casualties."

"Both the workshop and practical drive are completely free to Powys residents over the age of 55."

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Cheque for shelter box scheme



Rotarian Olwen John, Inner Wheel overseas organising officer Wendy Hutchinson and president Pat Talbot

THE ladies from Welshpool Inner Wheel have handed over a cheque for £150 to the town's Rotary Club.

Inner Wheel president Patricia Talbot presented the cheque to Rotary president Olwen John as contribution to a Shelter Box which is one of the major charities the Rotary Club supports at a joint social evening at The Royal Oak.

The evening was the annual event of the Wise Owl Quiz staged every year between the two clubs which ended in a draw with the Inner Wheel winning on a tie-breaker.

Thanks were given to Mrs. Margaret Harvey who has compiled the questions for the annual quiz event for five years.

New business awards

THE fifth annual Powys Business Awards have been launched with new categories including one recognising the importance of tourism to the region.

Businesses large and small in the Welshpool area are being urged to enter the competition, run by Powys County Council.

by Sue Austin

New categories include the Tourism Partnership Award, the Outstanding Mentor Award and an accolade for Best Use of Natural Resources.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, portfolio holder for regeneration for Powys County Council, launched the awards and urged businesses in the county to enter.

"We are delighted to be able to sup-

port the awards which are a fantastic opportunity for businesses to raise their profile and provide us with an opportunity to showcase their excellence," she said.

Application forms are now available for the 2014 awards, which will be handed out at an awards ceremony and black-tie dinner at Dering Lines in Brecon to be held in Brecon.

Deadline for the submission of entries is June 30.

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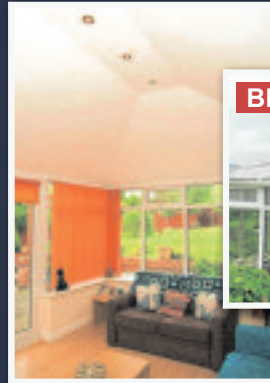


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Trustees hoping to make a splash

A new bank account has been created to help save a leisure centre and supporters are being asked to help get the ball rolling.

Splash Community Trust has opened its own account as it prepares for a huge fundraising drive in a bid to reopen the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre in Ruabon.

Splash director Greg Ogden, who lives in Trevor, near Oswestry, said: "We have some really exciting fundraising plans and projects lined up, and we are grateful to everyone who has contacted us to suggest ideas and offer their support."

"We need to keep this going if we're going to succeed in reopening Plas Madoc, so if you can donate then please do so."

A band night at Air Products Social Club in Acrefair raised about £400, and there are a number of money-spinning projects planned. The trust is also working on a new website, which is coming soon and will include a 'donate' button so supporters can boost the coffers at the click of a button.

In the meantime, anyone who would like to make a donation to the Splash Community Trust or have any fundraising ideas should contact Jenny Miller on 07921 659099.

Pressure is on for road crossing close to school

FRESH pressure is to be put on Shropshire Council highways bosses by campaigners battling for a pedestrian crossing in Gobowen.

Parish councillors in the village have agreed to again press the case for the safety improvements on St Martins Road.

The councillors also agreed to look at ways of how to discourage people using School Lane as a short cut over concerns speeding traffic could injure a child walking to school.

Campaigners have been battling for more than a year for crossing on St Martins Road and hundreds of people signed a petition calling for the improvements.

Friends idea for archive

A FRIENDS group could be launched to help preserve the historic archives in one of Shropshire's market towns – but not until another history project has come to an end.

The Oswestry Archives are kept in special vaults under the town's Guildhall and are cared for by Oswestry Town Council.

It has been suggested that a Friends group be set up, initially to help with supervision when visitors are given access to ancient documents.

In a report to the town council's amenities committee archivist Sara Downes said that the group could promote the archive and increasing public awareness, help with fundraising, support activities and provide volunteer support.

She said volunteers were currently working on a project to archive details about Oswestry cemetery.

Councillors agreed to review the use of volunteers working with the Oswestry Town Archives at the end of the cemetery project in March 2015.

They say the crossing will allow children to reach Gobowen Primary School safely.

A group of villagers went to a Shropshire Council meeting in Shirehall in Shrewsbury in the spring of last year just before the local authority elections to press their case and they were told their campaign would be given priority.

Highways officers say the 2014/15 capital programme which could include the crossing remains in draft at this time and Shropshire Council's cabinet will review it in June.

Shropshire Councillor David Lloyd urged the parish council to again press the case for the safety improvement by writing to Shirehall bosses. He said: "I would remind them we are coming up to the anniversary of when, accompanied by a handful of petitioners, we took the case for a crossing to Shirehall. People are still waiting."

The parish council agreed to make the St Martins Road crossing appeal a road safety priority and also agreed to ask Shropshire Council to look at how School Lane could be made safer.

Councillor Percy Cherrington said he was concerned about the speed and volume of traffic, with some of the problems caused by parents, while Councillor Sarah Heap, who lives on School Lane, said the no access signs were not as obvious as they could be.

Transporting Geller's Gorilla



The huge gorilla at the British Iron Works in Oswestry

SPECIALIST transport equipment had to be called in to make sure a giant spoon sculpture of a gorilla made it safe and well to its spot as a "special guest" at Saturday's Shropshire County Show.

A low-loader wagon and a huge teleporter was needed to shift the 13ft tall gorilla sculpture, commissioned by entertainer Uri Geller, from its Oswestry home to the showground in Shrewsbury in time for today's show.

The three-and-a-half tonne art piece has been built at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston, near Oswestry. Geller will now have it moved to his Thames-side home. But before it travels south the huge artwork, made from 40,000 used spoons donated by the public, was shifted and set up as a main feature for Shropshire County Show. Bosses at the British Ironwork Centre said moving the gorilla took a high degree of logistical skill. Managing director Clive Knowles said: "These things take some time to move."

NEWS

NEWS in brief

Plans for camping site are withdrawn

PLANS for a new camping and caravan site for the Powys/Shropshire border have been withdrawn.

The site, which would have consisted of five touring caravan pitches, five camping pods, 10 bell tents and 10 tents with a toilet block, laundrette and shower block, was planned for land at Brook House Farm at Crew Green, near Shrewsbury.

The planned development would also have consisted of portable toilets, a shop and cafe and room for storage of five caravans, but Powys County Council confirmed today that the plans have been dropped. It is not yet known why.

Activity firm wins excellence award

AN adventure activity firm has been awarded a certificate of excellence from online ratings website TripAdvisor after being named by the public as the number one attraction in its town.

ProAdventure Activities Ltd won the award having been voted the best attraction in Llangollen on TripAdvisor for two years.

The accolade, which honours hospitality excellence, is given only to businesses which have consistently achieved outstanding traveller reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide.

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Books on agenda as clubs meet up

BOOK clubs will be meeting in Oswestry at the start of June to discuss two books set in the past.

Booka Bookclub is currently reading Sepulchre by Kate Mosse and will be meeting to discuss the book on June 11 at 7.30pm.

The following night, June 12 at 7.30pm, the Book and a Beer Bookclub will be meeting to discuss The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor. In summer 1921, eight-year-old Lucy Gault is fighting against leaving her family home. She knows the Gaults are no longer welcome in Ireland, but decides that somehow she must force her parents into staying.

Both groups meet at the shop in Church Street, and the Book and a Beer group retire to one of the local pubs to continue the discussion over a well earned drink.

Members of each book club take it in turns to draw up a shortlist of books for future reads. All members vote on which book to read. The clubs focus on fiction, but non-fiction can be thrown into the choices too.

Book club members receive 10 per cent discount off the price of each book-club read, plus other offers during the year.

Warning of changes due to council 'cluster' plan

by Iain St John

A "CLUSTER" group of town and community councils is to be formed which could be responsible for running a variety of services in Mid Wales in the future.

Talks will be held in Welshpool next week over the plans and councils in the area are being urged to get involved in the process.

The cluster will be established at a meeting of the North Montgomeryshire Local Council Forum at Welshpool Town Hall on Tuesday.

It's jazz time on the tracks

JAZZ musicians helped take the pace down a step or two on a heritage railway line by performing on trains.

Performances were given in carriages and on platforms at Llangollen and Carrog on the Llangollen Railway over the weekend.

It was part of a series of steam and jazz events on the railway, and groups involved included the Tuxedo Jazz Band and Rae Owens & Brian Woods go Country.

Organisers have already pledged to run a similar event on September 13 and said the weekend's activities were a success.

A murder mystery event will be held at the Llangollen station on June 7 when "murder" will be committed on the train travelling along the line.

Tickets are £26 per person and includes refreshments, a return journey and the murder mystery. Call (01978) 860979.

Powys County Council has already warned the way some services will be delivered in the future will have to change as bosses grapple with a £20 million funding gap.

Hundreds of jobs will be lost and services such as day centres for the elderly and Meals on Wheels in Mid Wales will be hit as part of the new council budget.

Forum secretary Robert Robinson said the talks on June 3 would be the starting point for an exploration of how a cluster of councils could work in the future to deliver services currently operated by the county council.

He said: "It is at a very early stage and these are early explorations but it is important that councils in this area attend the meeting to take it forward."

"We have been talking to Powys County Council and we were asked to explore the idea of forming a cluster of councils which could work together to deliver services. The message to the community councils in the area is to get involved with this. The cluster will be established at the meeting."

Even when the cluster is set up each council will remain autonomous but they will be able to make a contribution

New headmaster appointed



Julian Noad - new headmaster at Oswestry School

OSWESTRY School has appointed a new headmaster.

Julian Noad has been appointed to replace Douglas Robb who is leaving for a new position in East Anglia in the summer.

Mr Noad graduated as an engineer from Southampton University before qualifying as a teacher.

He has a wide experience from farm management to yacht racing, which includes two second places in the Fastnet Race.

He also has had significant experience in both teaching and management within preparatory and senior schools.

He was head of science before becoming a boarding housemaster and assistant director of studies at Clifton College where he spent 12 years.

He then joined Rydal Penrhos as deputy head in 2009.

Mr Robb is leaving Oswestry to lead the pupils and staff of Gresham's, one of Norfolk's most successful schools.

NEWS in brief

Bible exhibition arrives in town

THE UK's largest Bible touring exhibition is coming to the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry, next week.

The exhibition, organised by the Christadelphians, will attempt to show the unique book's place in history, its relevance to past and future events, its message and how it has survived on a journey through history.

There are lots of events planned during the exhibition, including puppet shows and other entertainment at the bandstand at Cae Glas Park, a charity market stall at Oswestry market and a presentation on "World Conflict."

Pupils compete at athletics day

YOUNGSTERS from six primary schools competed in an athletics competition.

The Marches School in Oswestry hosted the annual Indoor Primary Athletics Festival, which saw 60 primary school students taking part in different activities throughout the day in the school's sports hall.

Pupils from Whittington, Weston Rhyn, Welshampton, Trefonen, Holy Trinity and Woodside primary schools were all presented with certificates at the end of the day.

Whittington Primary School was crowned the winning team.

Advertisement Feature

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The practice believes that preventive care and education is the key for good oral health for both adults and children. Thorough dental examinations are provided which include checking the overall health of your teeth and gums. Performing oral cancer screening and taking X rays when necessary as well as utilising cameras to improve patients understanding of their oral health. Patients are then advised on the best ways to help prevent decay and gum disease or treat them early before problems advance.

For those patients that are looking to improve the look of their smile, perhaps consider tooth whitening, cosmetic orthodontics, dental implants or amalgam removal. Thomas and Emily have many years' experience in cosmetic dentistry and will spend time to find the solution that's right for you.

Teeth are for more than just chewing, many patients can live their lives covering their smile, hiding behind their hands when laughing or talking since they feel embarrassed by their teeth. By understanding patient's fears of pain, inconvenience and expense of treatment, this practice is for anybody that seeks quality dentistry offering a wide range of options in treatments to find an individual solution for each patient.

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Telford Freight Terminal Go Green with solar array

Business built on Quality



Tom Smith (Director) of Go Green Systems with Sales manager Jonathan Bareham.

Jonathan Bareham, Customer Service and Sales Manager of Go Green Systems says "We like to differentiate ourselves from our competitors by focusing on Innovation / Technology as well as quality of installation, excellent back up and service rather than just price. We believe that our complete package ultimately offers the customer best value for money and the best green credentials."

A number of organisations agree, in June 2013 they were short listed for the BMW Rydale Outstanding Customer

Service award at the Shropshire Business Awards, and in June 2012 they were shortlisted for the national award; Which? Local Business of the Year 2012, which they won the Regional West Midlands Business of the Year award. Finally on 15th October 2013 they were one of fifteen small businesses from across the country shortlisted to attend the Local Business Accelerators backed by Deborah Meaden and they came away this time with the People's Choice Award for 2013.



Commercial solar installations are a great way for businesses to save energy and make money.

Telford Freight Terminal has caught the green bug and installed a total of 200 solar panels on to the roof of the company's premises in Halesfield, Telford.

"The decision to install Solar PV was a straightforward one" said Ron Coulson, of Telford Freight Terminal. "As well as offering good strong and sound business benefits and a fair return on capital, it is our way of contributing to a healthier environment. Although we have been lucky enough to get the system installed

and commissioned before the reduction in the feed in tariff in April we believe that with the increasing efficiency of panels and inverters, falling costs of the hardware, and increasing energy costs it still makes the prospect to other businesses compelling, and we hope they will follow our lead."

The system has been supplied and installed by Go Green Systems Ltd of Shrewsbury, and the array is expected to generate 40,080 kWh of energy annually, and saving up to 20 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.



State of the art inverters, harvesting the suns energy.

The array features three state-of-the-art energy harvesting and performance monitoring inverters from SolarEdge. The main benefit of this is that the system is optimised and enables modules to work independently, compared to having them wired in series



Tom Smith of Go Green Systems handing over the system to Ron Coulson of Telford Freight Terminal.

exporting surplus to the grid.

Tom Smith, Director of Go Green Systems says "There is still a great deal of misunderstanding regarding the benefits of solar energy. After the first initial rush when the various feed in tariffs were at their most favourable, demand dropped. The publicity surrounding the reduction of the feed in tariffs made things extremely difficult as people came to believe, incorrectly, that there was no longer an economic incentive to install the panels. The truth is that although the feed-in tariffs are less generous, they still provide a respectable return especially for businesses, particularly as the cost of installations has become much cheaper and energy prices have risen. By installing this array it will enable Telford Freight Terminal to reduce their carbon footprint thus doing their bit for the planet."



Telford Freight Terminal monitoring the systems performance.



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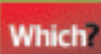
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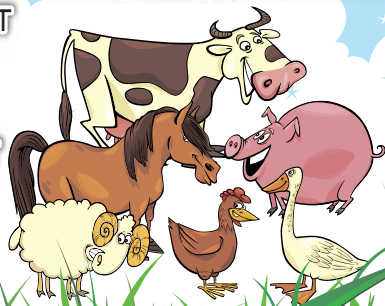
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FARMING

Farmers query claims on standard of living

Advertising feature

THE figures say that the standard of living in the Shropshire countryside has improved – but farmers said they beg to differ.

A study conducted by NFU Mutual has looked at the quality of life in rural areas based on a typical basket of goods consumed by countryside residents.

It says the cost of living has fallen for the first time in many years.

This year's results shows a negative figure for inflation rurally for the first time since records began in spring 2011, when rural inflation was nearly twice the national average.

The research has found there has been a 6.6 per cent fall in the cost of petrol and diesel and a 12.1 per cent fall in the cost of home fuels across Shropshire, which the NFU says has been the driving force behind rural living getting cheaper.

But farmers from around Shropshire today said they do not feel their standard of living has got any better or that bills have significantly dropped.

Andrew Bebb, a dairy farmer from Hanwood, near Shrewsbury, said: "Food and fuel prices are a big issue in the countryside. Petrol prices haven't dropped significantly at all. Fuel is one of the big drawbacks of living in the sticks because you need to travel more. "Food prices have almost doubled in the last two years which also doesn't help. I haven't noticed any change in my personal circumstances."

Jim Franklin, from Aqualate Dairy Farm near Newport, said: "Things seem to be pretty much the same. I



Farmers don't agree with standard of living statistics for Shropshire

haven't had a pay rise in 11 years and the costs have gone up."

John Baynon Brown, a farmer from Wem and chairman of the Shropshire rural support network, said: "Yes some of our prices are down, but then the cost of machinery has gone up."

The average UK consumer spends £4,357 a year on home maintenance,

personal transport, fuel and energy – but for those living in the countryside it comes in at £6,082.

Yet while rural people do face many higher costs than those living in towns and cities, they also feel it's worth it.

The study found a greater level of life happiness among people living in the countryside.

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Europe stands down on soil directive fight



The European Commission has finally withdrawn its proposal for a Soil Framework Directive

THE European Commission has finally withdrawn its proposal for a Soil Framework Directive following years of NFU lobbying.

The ill-fated draft directive was first published in 2006 but has remained on hold since the end of 2007 when a coalition made up of the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Austria blocked its progress at a meeting of the EU Environment Council.

This coalition or 'blocking minority'

Advertising feature

of countries has remained firmly opposed to the proposals.

NFU Vice President Guy Smith said: "The withdrawal of an EU legislative proposal is unprecedented, but the significant and on-going opposition to the draft Soils Directive text over the past eight years has clearly left the Commission's original proposals unworkable. From the early stages, and since the halt on its progress at the end of 2007, the NFU has actively

called for these proposals to be thrown out.

"Our long-held and firm belief has been that there is no need for additional legislation.

"Farmers have an inherent interest in maintaining their land in good condition and in assuring its long-term fertility and productivity, and we believe that these can be supported through carefully targeted advice and information, voluntary action, partnerships and a greater emphasis on monitoring and research."

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Property

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Victorian vicarage in superb rural setting

A charming Grade II listed former vicarage set in just over two acres of grounds is for sale with Strutt & Parker. Believed to date from 1850, The Old Vicarage, Penrhos, near Llanymynech, is surrounded by glorious countryside. The owners have added a modern twist to the interior which provides a striking contrast to the many beautiful original features

including marble fireplaces and panelled window shutters. The kitchen has stainless steel units and a Falcon range, and leads through to the open plan dining area. Originally two rooms, the sitting room has also been opened up to create a fantastic family space. To the rear of the house is a spacious office, a utility and storage area. On the first floor are four bedrooms, one

with en-suite wet room, and a bathroom, while a further bedroom and bathroom are to be found on the top floor. The lovely grounds include an orchard, vegetable garden, chicken run and several outbuildings. There is also a studio to the rear of the house. Strutt & Parker have set a guide price of £695,000 – call 01743 284200 to view.



Village property offers large gardens and stunning views

A beautifully situated three-bedroom detached house with large gardens and superb rural views has come on to the market. Silverdale, Springbank Close, Trefonen, includes a hallway, sitting room with multi-fuel burner, living room with open fireplace, kitchen/diner, inner hall, utility/laundry room, double glazing, oil central heating, off road parking, workshop, garage and extensive gardens. The property is priced at £324,950 – call Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 to view.



Bungalow in lovely location next to open fields needs TLC

A rare opportunity has arisen to purchase a spacious detached bungalow on a large plot with far-reaching rural views. Requiring some modernisation, Little Tey, Chapel Lane, Knockin Heath, comprises an entrance hall, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, sun room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The large rear garden is fully enclosed with superb views towards Rodney's Pillar, and the property also benefits from oil-fired central heating and double glazing. The agents are seeking offers around £275,000. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 to view.

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Maenol, Llangurig Rd, Llanidloes
Guide Price £350,000

- Impressive 19th century property
- With detached Coach House
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- In need of major renovation works
- Rare opportunity to acquire a substantial property
- Great potential in a convenient location

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567



8 Glan Rhiew, Manafon, SY21 8BL
Guide Price £65,000 to £75,000

- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Bungalow
- Lounge & Kitchen, Bathroom
- UPVC D/Glazing, LPG Gas C/Heating
- Paved rear garden area
- Pleasant rural village location
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Energy Efficiency Rating: 52

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



4 Ael Y Don, Cliff Terr, Aberystwyth
Guide Price £50,000 to £55,000

- A First Floor 1 bedroom apartment
- In need of refurbishment
- On the outskirts of Aberystwyth
- Ideally suited for letting or private residence
- Within close proximity to the sea front
- Walking distance of town centre amenities
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 55

Aberystwyth Office 01970 625020



Former Primary School, Dolfor
Guide Price £100,000 to £120,000

- Set in generous level grounds of 1.9 acres
- Situated in the village of Dolfor
- Constructed in 1953
- Adaptable building suitable for a multiple range of uses (subject to consent)
- Overage Clause applies

Newtown Office 01686 626160



Hillcrest, Upper Dolfor Rd, Newtown
Guide Price £135,000

- Elevated detached Bungalow
- Enjoying extensive views
- Requiring a scheme of refurbishment
- Gas C/Heating, D/Glazed
- 2 Reception, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Detached Sun Room, Garage, Gardens
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 66

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Carregdio Lake, Llangurig, SY18 6SY
Guide Price £15,000

- Situated in the heart of Mid Wales
- A lake in a rural location surrounded by woodland
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- In a secluded location with far reaching views
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- Extending to 1.16 ha (2.87 acres)

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Cambrian House, Llanfair Caereinion
Guide Price £115,000 to £125,000

- 'Quirky' Terraced Town Cottage
- Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, En-suite & Shower Room
- Front garden, Enclosed rear yard
- Some Secondary Glazed, Oil Fired Heating
- Energy efficiency rating = 40

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8 The Terrace, Commins Coch
Guide Price £65,000

- Mid terrace period cottage
- Pleasant hamlet setting
- In good order throughout
- Paved garden to front
- Garden with Summer House to rear
- Night storage heating
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 46

Machynlleth Office 01654 702472



Flat 2, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth
Price Guide £45,000

- 1 Bedroom ground floor flat
- Good Order
- Excellent investment opportunity
- Opposite beach
- UPVC Windows
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 78

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388



Flat 3, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth
Guide Price £75,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- Superb sea views
- Extensively refurbished
- Fully fitted carpets
- Opposite beach
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 81

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388



2 Brynhafron, Llanidloes
Price Guide £75,000

- A 3-storey semi detached dwellinghouse
- Grade II Listed former weavers cottage
- Requiring a scheme of modernisation
- 2 Reception, kitchenette, 3 bedrooms, bathroom
- 2nd floor room 29' x 22' with potential to convert
- Enclosed front garden. Rear yard & garden

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567



Bronafon, Llangadfan, SY21 0PN
Guide Price £100,000

- Detached Roadside 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Sitting/Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Oil C/H. D/G. Off road parking. Lawns
- Would benefit from some modern refitting
- Space to extend (subject to planning)
- Energy efficiency rating =

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Bro'r Awelon, Dinas Mawddwy
Guide Price £220,000

- Traditional 3 bedroom village house
- Superb rural aspect
- Quiet location backing onto woodland
- Oil Central heating
- Adaptable garage/workshop with loft above
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 28

Machynlleth Office 01654 702472



Flat 4, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth
Guide Price £75,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- Superb sea views
- Extensively refurbished
- Fully fitted carpets
- Opposite beach
- Energy Efficiency Rating=76

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388



Flat 5, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth
Price Guide £65,000

- 2 bedrooms
- Stunning sea views
- Centrally heated
- Good order
- Opposite beach
- Energy efficiency rating = 67

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Ivy Cottage, Rhayader, LD6 5BU
Guide Price £125,000

- Period mid terrace house
- Close to a number of tourist attractions
- 2 Reception, 4 bedrooms, en-suite, bathroom
- D/G. Gas C/H. Enclosed rear garden
- Retaining original features
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 51

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567



Pencroesau, Llangurig, SY18 6SH
Guide Price £95,000

- Detached edge of village roadside cottage
- Enjoying views over the surrounding countryside
- Requiring a scheme of refurbishment
- Part upvc d/glazed, part oil c/heating. EPC Rating = 34
- Kitchen, 2 receptions, 3 bedrooms, bathroom.
- Front & rear gardens. Rear parking with carport.

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567



Glancoegen, Cem maes, SY20 9PR
Guide Price £125,000

- Much improved end terrace village house
- 4 Bedrooms, 2/3 Reception
- Garage & Utility
- Upvc double glazing, Gas central heating
- Vacant Possession
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 35

Machynlleth Office 01654 702472



13 Glan Y Mor, Marine Parade, Tywyn
Guide Price £50,000 to £55,000

- Modernised Maisonette with Sea Views
- Excellent position Adjacent to the promenade
- Ideal Holiday Home
- Open plan kitchen and Lounge
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 61

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388



Land at Penhelyg, Aberdyfi
Guide Price £45,000 - £50,000

- Garden plot with ruin
- Located in the centre of Aberdyfi
- Potential purchasers to make their own planning enquiries

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388

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£125,000

- Three bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge, conservatory and fitted kitchen
- Ground floor cloakroom and fitted bathroom
- Gas-fired central heating and double glazing
- Good sized rear garden
- Ideal first time buy or investment property
- EPC Rating ?? (?)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Tŷll, Bwlch-y-Ddar, Llangedwyn

£445,000

- Country Smallholding affording 7.22 acres
- Three bedroom detached cottage
- Two reception rooms and kitchen/diner
- Attached building affording annexe accommodation
- South facing with outstanding views to the Breidden Hills
- Inspection highly recommended
- Oil Central Heating. EPC Rating = 28 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



1 Ardmillan Close, Oswestry

£158,000

- Detached House with single garage
- Corner plot. Gas C/H, D/Glazed
- With scope for modernisation
- Two receptions, kitchen, sun room
- Three bedrooms and family bathroom
- Energy efficiency rating = 53

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

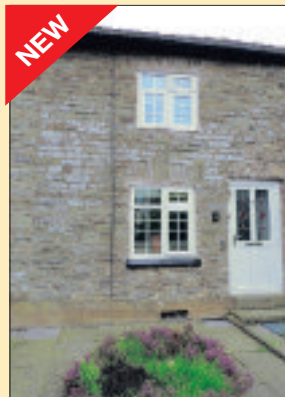


Tyn-Y-Pistyll, Garth, Glyn Ceiriog

£350,000

- Individual Detached 3 Bedroom House
- With Outstanding Valley Views
- Open plan living accommodation
- Large timber decked area & summer house
- Landscaped terraced gardens & woodland
- On-site parking, Sep driveway to garden
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 30

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



- Refurbished 2 Bed-room Mid Terrace Village Cottage
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining with oven/hob
- Electric Heating. UPVC double glazed
- Paved front garden. Enclosed rear lawn
- Ideal First Time Buyer/Investment
- Primary school nearby. EPC rating = 60

£105,000

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



10 Bronwyfya Road, Welshpool

£130,000

- Semi-Detached House with Garage
- Spacious garden grounds
- Sitting & Living Rooms, Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Electric Heating. Double Glazed
- Would benefit from some refitting
- Energy efficiency rating = TBC

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

NEW



Castle Cafe, Church Street, Welshpool (or) To Let at £12,000 per annum

£240,000

- Well Known Cafe/Eating House.
- Seating for 78.
- Fully fitted Kitchen.
- Close to town centre.
- Energy efficiency rating = 75

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LET

OSWESTRY

Self Cont 2nd/F, Bedsit, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets. (EER=36).....	£210 pcm (£310 deposit)
Self Cont G/F, Bedsit, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets. (EER=32)	£210 pcm (£310 deposit)
1 Bed F/F Flat, Parking, Garden, FTE, No Pets. (EER=52)	£295 pcm (£395 deposit)
1 Bed 2nd/F Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets. (EER=67)	£320 pcm (£420 deposit)
1 Bed F/F Apartment, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets. (EER=66).....	£350 pcm (£350 deposit)
1 Bed G/F Apartment, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets. (EER=53).....	£350 pcm (£350 deposit)
2 Bed Maisonette, Gas C/H, D/G, FTE, No Pets, (EER=69)	£350 pcm (£350 deposit)
2 Bed Mid-Terr House, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets (EER=31).....	£375 pcm (£475 deposit)
2 Bed G/F Apartment, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets (EER=65)	£375 pcm (£375 deposit)
2 Bed F/F Apartment, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets (EER=61)	£375 pcm (£375 deposit)
2 Bed Part/Furnished Flat, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets,(EER=6)	£400 pcm (£525 deposit)
2 Bed Refurbished Flat, Elec/He, FTE, No Pets. (EER= 18)	£425 pcm (£525 deposit)
2 Bed Det Bung, Gas C/H, Garage, FTE, No Pets. (EER=67).....	£425 pcm (£525 deposit)
3 Bed Det House, Gas C/H, D/G, FTE, No Pets (EER=76).....	£625 pcm (£725 deposit)

LLANRYMYNECH

3 Bed Det House, Oil C/H, Parking, FTE, No Pets. (EER=60)	£595 pcm (£695 deposit)
---	-------------------------

MORDA

2 Bed Mid-Terr House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=53) £375 pcm	(£475 deposit)
--	----------------

PARK HALL

2 Bed F/F Flat, Gas C/H, Parking, FTE, No Pets, (EER=48)£395 pcm.....	(£495 deposit)
1 Bed G/F Flat, Gas C/H, Parking, FTE, No Pets, (EER=58)£325 pcm	(£425 deposit)

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Bowen Son and Watson has been selected as the best independent estate agent by Relocation Agent Network to represent them in **Wrexham, Oswestry, Ellesmere, Llangollen and Chirk**



Queens Road Oswestry £310,000

- Executive 5 Bedroom Family Home completed to a high specification
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room
- Master Suite comprising Dressing Room & En-Suite Shower Room
- 4 other Beds (2 with adjoining dressing rooms), Family Bathroom
- Private established gardens, double garage & off-road parking
- uPVC double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C



Chapel Lane Knockin Heath £275,000

- A spacious Detached Bungalow set on a large plot
- The property requires some modernisation works
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Sun Rm
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Fully enclosed rear garden with superb rural views towards Rodney's Pillar
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E



Balmoral Crescent Oswestry £199,950

- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility
- 4 Beds (master en-suite), Family Bathrm
- Driveway & Garage, Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating E



Rhoswiel Weston Rhyn £165,000

- Substantial 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home
- Within walking distance of Shropshire Union Canal
- Lounge, Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Dining Rm, Utility
- Cloaks, 3 Beds, Bathroom
- Courtyard style cobbled yard 7 parking
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating E



Rhosyllan House St Martins £180,000

- Substantial 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Extensively modernised by the current owners
- Lounge, Hallway/Study, Dining Rm, Kitchen
- Utility, Cloakroom, 4 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, large garage & allocated parking area
- Gas C/H and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating E



Upper Chirk Bank £250,000

- A rare residential development opportunity located in the picturesque village of Chirk
- Bank extending to 1.06 acres (0.43 ha)
- Having Outline Planning Permission for 7 units
- Set in an elevated position with excellent views and within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and Chirk Aqueduct which forms part of a World Heritage site



Cherry Tree Drive St Martins £119,950

- Well appointed & deceptively spacious Semi-Detached
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms & bathroom
- Good size driveway with off-road parking, carport & garage
- Low maintenance private garden to rear
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D



Oswald Place Oswestry £139,995

- 3 Bed Town House with Original Features
- Within Walking Distance of Town Centre
- Kitchen Lounge, Cloakroom
- 2 Beds and Bathroom
- Master Bed with adj Dressing Room
- Private Courtyard Garden
- Gas Central Heating, D/G. EPC Rating F



Park Avenue Oswestry £129,995

- Deceptively spacious and well maintained Mid-Terrace Property
- With a host of original features
- Dining Rm leading into Lounge
- Kitchen, 2 Beds, Bathrm
- Good size rear garden
- raised patio area and outside stores
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D



Old St Martins Rd Gobowen £94,500

- Spacious and comfortable End-of-Terrace House
- Sitting Room, Kitchen
- Family Bathroom, Two Excellent Bedrooms
- Enclosed lawned garden to the rear
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating
- EPC Rating E

19th June Property Auction

2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton Oswestry SY11 3EN



LOT 1 AUCTION

- Ruebon WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £50,000
- Two bedroomed stone terrace house
 - Pleasant elevated position
 - In a Conservation Area
 - Potential for full scheme of sympathetic improvement
 - Energy Rating G
 - Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 2 AUCTION

- Chester Road WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £120,000
- Providing excellent scope for modernisation and refurbishment
 - Traditionally styled bay-fronted three bedroom property
 - Parking gardens and brick garage
 - EPC Rating F
 - Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 3 AUCTION

- Pentre Broughton WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £100,000
- Detached three bedroom family home
 - Double glazed and Gas CH
 - Paddock to the side and gardens
 - Parking and garage
 - EPC Rating G
 - Contact Llangollen Office



LOT 4 AUCTION

- Action WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £50,000
- Ground Floor Flat
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Gardens
 - EPC Rating C
 - Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 4a AUCTION

- Action WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £50,000
- Ground Floor Flat
 - Two double bedrooms
 - Double glazing & electric heating
 - Enclosed gardens
 - EPC Rating b/c
 - Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 5 AUCTION

- Acrefair LLANGOLLEN**
Guide Price Over £150,000
- Formerly occupied by the business known as "Border Beds" whilst a separate businesses operate from the Trinity Hall annex. Large car parking area to the rear of the buildings.
- EPC Rating C
 - Contact Llangollen Office



LOT 6 AUCTION

- Pentre Broughton WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £100,000
- A two bedroom detached bungalow
 - Double glazing and Gas CH
 - Low level maintenance gardens
 - Parking, detached garage with workshop/stores
 - EPC Rating E
 - Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 7 AUCTION

- Glyn Ceiriog LLANGOLLEN**
Guide Price Over £100,000
- Deceptively spacious Det Bungalow
 - Situated close to village centre
 - Sun Porch, Lounge, Bathroom
 - Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms. Large garden
 - uPVC Double Glazing, Oil CH
 - EPC Rating F
 - Contact Chirk Office



LOT 8 AUCTION

- Brongarth OSWESTRY**
Guide Price Over £50,000
- A truly unique opportunity to purchase a Country Cottage together with 2.6 acres of woodland all situated in an idyllic country setting with open views towards Chirk Castle, the Ceiriog Valley and the Shropshire Plain.
- Contact Oswestry Office

Our local valuers offer many years of experience and offer honest and independent advice on the how to achieve the best price possible. To arrange a free no-obligation market appraisal please contact one of the offices.



The Auction Catalogue can be downloaded from

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NEW

NO CHAIN



OC3559

Sycamore Cottage, Nr Treflach
Price: £399,950

This detached country home is situated in a most peaceful rural location. Set in approximately two acres this extended and renovated cottage must be viewed to appreciate the spacious and characterful accommodation. Current EPC Rating F

- Two Reception Rooms
- Master & Ensuite
- Three further Bedrooms
- Paddock

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3923

The Old School House, Knockin
Price: £425,000

The Old School House is a most interesting, if not unique, period house of immense charm and character, attached to the former Headmistress' property. The property benefits from a recent scheme of updating and modernisation.

- Four Bedrooms
- Superb Accommodation
- Lovely views
- Must See
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3919

The Old Mill, Candy
Price: £750,000

This handsome former mill comprises a spacious family home, large self contained annexe, outbuildings and nine acres of land including cottage style gardens, pasture and woodland. The property has been extensively refurbished over the last ten years by the current owners. Situated in an enchanting and delightful rural location with 800 acres of woodland walks on the doorstep. Current EPC Rating D.

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3910

Woolston House, Woolston
Price: £595,000

An imposing Georgian fronted property recently refurbished to a high standard whilst retaining many original features. The property is currently established as a 5 star Gold Award Bed and Breakfast providing three luxurious guest suites however, the property is also a wonderful family home. Offering six bedrooms and beautiful accommodation. Current EPC Rating E.

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3911

Plas Cerrig, Wern
Price: £560,000

This extraordinary detached family home dates back to 1803 and offers characterful accommodation throughout and must be viewed to be appreciated. The property is complimented by a detached self contained annexe and 1.5 acres of grounds. The accommodation is spacious and offers four bedrooms in the main house and one bedroom in the annexe.

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3902

Ochr, Llawnt,
Price: £325,000

A charming detached county cottage situated in a secluded rural location 3.5 miles from Oswestry Town Centre. This property will appeal to those looking for seclusion but not isolation. In all about 0.48 acre. Mainly Oil Fired Central Heating System with Electric Off Peak Storage Heaters. EPC Rating F.

- Well presented
- Garden & Orchard
- Potential Annexe
- Four Bedrooms

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3921

Tanat, Pant
Price: £285,000

This luxurious detached bungalow offers spacious and immaculate accommodation which is warmed by oil fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing throughout. This property has been maintained to an excellent standard by the current owners and must be viewed to be appreciated. The accommodation is immaculate is currently an EPC rating D.

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3920

Breidden View, Penyfoel
Price: £285,000

This detached Victorian cottage benefits from an elevated position with magnificent views over the English/Welsh borderland to The Breidden Hills and across to the Shropshire Plain. Nestled on the side on Llanymynech Hill this property is a walkers dream with many routes and trails across unspoilt countryside, Offas Dyke or Montgomery Canal. The property would also appeal to garden enthusiasts.

Contact Oswestry

NEW



OC3918

2 The Laurels, Queenshead
Price: £189,950

A charming semi detached Edwardian family home situated in a popular and most convenient semi rural location. This property has been extended and benefits from original features and central heating.

- Sitting Room, Living Room
- Kitchen, Inner Hallway
- Sun Room, Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Gardens, Two Garden Sheds

Contact Oswestry



OC3917

4 Smale Rise, Oswestry
Price: £124,950

This two bedroom semi detached property will appeal to first time buyers or those wishing to invest in a property. The property is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Reception Hall, Lounge,
- Dining Kitchen,
- Two Bedrooms,
- Private Rear Garden
- Parking for Two Cars
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry



OC3922

Rosslyn, Gwern-y-brenin
Price: Offers over £450,000

This stunning brand new family home has been designed to an exacting standard and is situated in a pleasant rural location with views of the open countryside. Care and attention is reflected in the Eco-Friendliness, space, layout and finish.

This timber frame property will be sold with the benefit of a 10 year warrantee and must be viewed to be appreciated.

Contact Oswestry



OC3918

Arkwood, Trefonen
Price: £239,950

This charming FOUR BEDROOM semi detached cottage is situated in a most sought after semi rural village 2.5 miles from the market town of Oswestry. The immaculate accommodation.

- Lounge with stove
- Office / Play Room,
- Kitchen / Dining Room,
- Master Bedroom with
- Dressing Room & Ensuite
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry



OC3917

Laburnam Cottage, Gwern-y-brenin
Price: £399,950

Situated in an idyllic peaceful location only 1.5 miles from the centre of Oswestry and standing in grounds of approx 0.85 of an acre. A spacious character family home offering flowing and adaptable accommodation.

- Master & En-Suite & Balcony
- 3 Further Bedrooms
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- 26 Ft Kitchen/Dining Room
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens, Orchard & Paddock

Contact Oswestry



OC3922

View Cottage, Llanymynech
Price: £270,000

This cottage benefits from magnificent views over the English/Welsh borderland to The Breidden Hills and across to the Shropshire Plain. Nestled on the side on Llanymynech Hill this property is a walkers dream with many routes and trails across unspoilt countryside, Offas Dyke or Montgomery Canal.

- 3 Double Bed Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Sits In Approx 0.65 Of An Acre
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



OC3874

Colliery Road, St Martins
Price: £249,950

An immaculate four bedroom detached property situated in a village location within a short walk from a Nature Reserve and excellent village amenities. Built in 2000 this property offers spacious accommodation with individual design characteristics.

- WC, Kitchen Dining Room
- Utility Room, Lounge
- Kitchen / Dining Room,
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom with roll top bath,
- Parking, Garage, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry



OC3917

Llanforda Rise, Oswestry
Price: £239,950

This detached bungalow is situated in a most sought after location within Oswestry Town within walking distance to the amenities and a regular bus service passing the door. The property requires some modernisation but does benefit from oil fired central heating and partial UPVC double glazing. Current EPC Rating F.

Contact Oswestry



OC3897

Gertrude Cottage, St Martins
Price: £159,950

A most charming cottage dating back to the early 1900's situated on an edge of village location with views of open countryside. Offering characterful accommodation and undergone a scheme of updating this family home must be viewed to be appreciated. Countryside walks, village amenities and commuter links are all nearby. Warmed by has fired Central heating. EPC Rating E.

Contact Oswestry



OC3866

Cambrian Mews, Oswestry
Price: £142,500

This three storey THREE bedroom end of terrace town house is situated within a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre offering immaculate accommodation fitted to a high specification including good quality 'Quick Step' laminate flooring throughout the ground floor.

- R'Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom Two, Family Bathroom
- Bedroom Three, Master Suite
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Parking
- Ideal Investment
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry

Head Office
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A spacious four-bedroom detached family home with lovely countryside views is on the market with the Welshpool office of Halls. Ardwyn, Pont Robert, near Meifod, includes a large entrance hall, study, extensive lounge with dining area and doors to the garden, well fitted kitchen with breakfast area and a utility with door to the integral garage. On the first floor are four bedrooms, one with en-suite shower room, and a large family bathroom. There are good-sized, enclosed gardens with rural views beyond. The property is priced at £295,000. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 to arrange a viewing.



A charming Grade II listed cottage on the edge of the village of Four Crosses is on the market at £122,500 with realistic offers considered. Built in 1844 as part of a wharfside development, 7 Canal Cottages stands close to the Montgomeryshire Canal with wonderful views. It has an entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, two double bedrooms, shower room, double glazing in keeping with the style of the cottage, and LPG and electric heating. The attractive cottage-style garden is well stocked and looks onto fields, and there are two parking spaces in a private car park. Call Town & Country on 01691679631 to find out more.



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On the instructions of the LPA Receivers - Ring fenced stock ground

About 198 acres (80.2 ha) of meadow land, good hill grazing and woodland. Site for cottage. Mobile home site



About 198 acres (80.2 ha)

Guide Price £600,000

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A mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes within walking distance of Gobowen village.



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MORDA



- Well Appointed Four Bed, Dormer Bungalow
- GFCH & D/Grading
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom & Cloakroom
- Study
- Garage & Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Occupying Quiet Village Position
- EPC Band -

JJD843

£194,950

MORDA



- Fine Detached Bungalow
- OFCH & UPVC D/G
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Garage
- Large Attractive Garden - Approx. third acre
- Occupying Elevated Position
- Affording Rural Views
- EPC Band -

JJD844

GUIDE PRICE £265,000

OSWESTRY



- Detached three bedroomed family house in sought after residential area
- GFCH/D/G
- Cloakroom
- Kitchen & Utility
- Dining Room
- Sitting Room & Lounge
- Dressing Room
- Large Garage
- Attractive Gardens
- EPC Band D

JJD778

£349,950

OSWESTRY



- Ground Floor Apartment
- GFCH
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Visitors Parking
- EPC Band - D

JJD835

£109,950

GOBOWEN



- CH & D/G
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Front Garden, Rear Yard
- Purpose Built Complex
- Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - D

JJD837

OFFERS OVER £69,950

OSWESTRY



- Gas Fired C/H
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Ideal For Buy To Let
- EPC Band - D

JJD841

£119,950

ST. MARTINS



- Detached House
- Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D

JJD855

£239,000

PARK HALL, NR. OSWESTRY



- GFCH & D/G
- Dining Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Sun Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Attractive Garden
- Garage & Parking
- Occupying Quiet Position
- EPC Band - D

JJD820

£139,500

OSWESTRY



- Modern Detached Bungalow
- GFCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage And Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Cul De Sac Location
- EPC Band D

JJD814

£138,950

OSWESTRY



- Attractive Victorian Terraced House.
- Partial Gas
- CH
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Beds
- Modern Bathroom
- Loft/Bedroom 3
- Rear Yard And Garden
- EPC Band E

JJD710

OFFERS OVER £89,950

LLANFECHAIN



- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2
- Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C

JJD833

GUIDE PRICE £400,000

LLANMYNECH



- Fully Equipped Sales Office
- 100 Ft. Wide Concrete Forecourt
- Toilet
- Fronting Onto Busy A483
- Recently Used For Car Sales
- Lends Itself To Other Uses

JJD832

£47,500

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212



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LETTINGS

Weston Rhyn, 2 Bed Ap't £400pcm
Oswestry, 3 Bed Ap't £400pcm
Oswestry, 2 Bed Ap't £430pcm
Oswestry, 2 Bed Ter £450pcm
Fees Apply

GOBOWEN



- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing

£92,500

WEST FELTON



- Attractive Two Bedroomed Terraced House
- Situated at the end of the cul-de-sac
- Situated within the village of West Felton
- Within Easy Reach of Oswestry and Shrewsbury

£99,950

FOUR CROSSES



- Cottage Close To Canal
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Original Features. EPC F
- Overlooks Fields

- Off Road Parking
- Immaculate Condition
- Cottage Garden
- Viewing Recommended

Realistic offers considered £122,500

GLYN CEIRIOG



- A Delightful Character Two Bedroomed Mid Terrace Property
- In The Picturesque Glyn Ceiriog Valley



- Log Burning Stove
- Beamed Ceilings
- Terraced Gardens

£125,000

MORDA



- Modern Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Master En-suite
- Gas C.H. / Upvc D.G.



- Views From The Rear
- Off Road Parking
- Village Location
- Viewing Recommended

£142,000

LLANSANTFFRAID



- Semi-Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Well Maintained
- Three Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Village Location
- Viewing Recommended

Offers in the region of £149,950

LLANGYNOG



- Two Bedroom Detached Country Cottage
- Stunning Location
- Amazing Views Across the Berwyn Mountains
- Within Easy Distance of Lake Vyrnwy and Bala Lake

£175,000

DUDLESTON HEATH



- Detached Four Bedroom Family House
- Located Within The Sought After Village of Dudleston Heath
- Within Easy Reach of Ellesmere, Oswestry and Shrewsbury
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing

£189,950

OSWESTRY



- Much Sought After Area
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Views Across Brogyntyn Park
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Private Enclosed Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating

£225,000

OSWESTRY



- A LARGE DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- SOUGHT AFTER AREA OF OSWESTRY
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS (ONE WITH EN-SUITE)
- GOOD SIZED PRIVATE REAR GARDEN
- AMPLE PARKING TO THE FRONT
- DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

£280,000

DAYWELL



- DETACHED COUNTRY COTTAGE
- THREE/FOUR BEDS
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- BEAMED CEILINGS
- QUIET RURAL LOCATION
- BACKING ONTO FIELDS

£342,500

FORDEN, WELSHPOOL



- Superb Detached Four Bedroom Property
- Views Across to Long Mountain
- Well Maintained Throughout
- Lovely Gardens to Front and Rear
- Within Easy Reach of Welshpool, Newtown, Shrewsbury and Oswestry

£345,000

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- Lovely Gardens
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- Spacious Superb Four Bedroom Barn Conversion
- Rural Location
- Vaulted Beamed Ceilings
- Exposed Brickwork
- Lovely Gardens
- Ensuite

£389,950



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Selected

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PENYBONTFAWR

£82,000



An opportunity to acquire this detached cottage located in a popular village with two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property boast many original features including beams and open fireplaces. Located in Penybontfawr with its own Primary School, shop and public house. The Town of Llanfyllin is 6 miles away, Oswestry is 16 miles and Welshpool is 17 miles. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the condition of the property.

GLYN CEIRIOG

£93,000



OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN!!! A charming terraced cottage positioned in the heart of the CEIRIOG VALLEY boasting many original features such as BEAMED CEILINGS and SASH WINDOWS. There are two DOUBLE bedrooms, bathroom, lounge and kitchen/ diner. There is a small rockery garden to the front whilst there is an attractive garden with sitting areas and lawned and shrubbed gardens. Located in Glyn Ceiriog, all local amenities are close at hand.

LLANYMYNECH

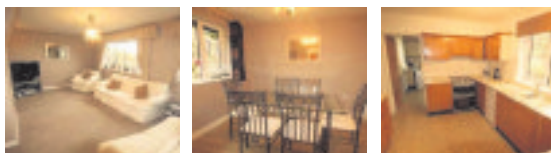
Offers in the region of £170,000



OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN! A DETACHED COTTAGE with a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN and parking OFFERING GREAT POTENTIAL. The property boasts two reception rooms, two double bedrooms (one with en suite), kitchen, bathroom and utility. To the rear there is a generous garden which lends itself to various uses and would make an ideal BUILDING PLOT subject to planning being granted. Viewing is essential to appreciate the scope and character of the property and its gardens.

PANT

£199,950



Situated on the edge of the village this is a split level DETACHED property. Comprising of ground floor entrance hall, THREE BEDROOMS and a bathroom/WC. To the first floor there is a living room, dining room, kitchen, utility and cloakroom/WC. DOUBLE GLAZING THROUGHOUT. Externally the property is approached via a driveway and has an integral garage and a LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN with VIEWS. Elevated views across the Shropshire Plain and Rodney's Pillar. The property benefits from OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. Bedrooms to the ground floor with the living accommodation to the first floor enjoying the views. In addition the property has the added benefit of a garage and driveway. Pant is a popular village with a school, shop, public house. Access to Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Wrexham and Chester.

PARK HALL

£230,000



A BRAND NEW, well proportioned, three bedroom, detached property in the SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION of Park Hall. Having an INTEGRAL SINGLE GARAGE, two reception rooms, utility room, downstairs w.c., three excellent bedrooms, an ensuite and a family bathroom. Built to a high specification with unique features such as a corner window overlooking the views of open countryside. Located in Park Hall only two miles from Oswestry Town Centre with a good range of amenities at hand.

LLANGEDWYN

£299,950



NO CHAIN. WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER THIS IDYLIC COTTAGE WITH OUTSTANDING VIEWS OF THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE. This beautiful property has three bedrooms with well maintained and mature cottage gardens with a vegetable plot, fruit bushes and trees. Accommodation briefly comprises - lounge, dining room/sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility/boot room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheds, greenhouse and woodshed. The property benefits from solar panels for the hot water, oil central heating and double glazing. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY.

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STRUTT & PARKER

Oswestry | Shropshire

Guide price £560,000

NEW



Oswestry 10 miles | Shrewsbury 13 miles | Telford 28 miles

A contemporary barn conversion with modern open plan accommodation and spectacular far reaching views
Reception room | Open plan sitting room/dining room/kitchen
Master bedroom with en suite | 3 Further bedrooms
2 Bath/shower rooms | Study | Utility room
Garden store/garage | Gardens | EPC rating C

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 pip.williams@struttandparker.com



Llansanffraid | Powys

Guide price £465,000



Llanymynech 3 miles | Oswestry 8 miles | Welshpool 10.7 miles

A unique former watermill with river frontage and fishing rights

Open plan kitchen, living room and dining room | Utility room
Shower room | 6 Bedrooms, 2 ensuite | Bathroom
Study/bedroom 7 | Balcony | Decked area | EPC rating C

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 tom.wright@struttandparker.com



Oswestry | Shropshire

Guide price £415,000

NEW



Oswestry 2 miles | Shrewsbury 18.3 miles | Chester 25.9 miles

A four bedroom family home within large landscaped grounds

Entrance hall | Sitting room | Dining room | Kitchen/breakfast room
Study | Utility room | Conservatory | 4 Bedrooms | Bathroom
En suite W.C | Garden | Double garage | Gardener's W.C
Coal Store | EPC Rating C

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South Shropshire



Lucy Dale
Shrewsbury



Belinda Hutchinson
Smith
Shrewsbury



Tom Wright
Shrewsbury



Sarah Miller
Shrewsbury



Jack Tavernor
Farm Agency



Pip Wilson
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Kevin Boulton
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STRUTT & PARKER

Pen-Y-Bont | Shropshire

Guide price £385,000



Llansilin 3 miles | Oswestry 7 miles | Llanymynech 9 miles

A charming four bedroom barn conversion with beautiful gardens, situated amongst rolling countryside

2 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room
Cloakroom | Master bedroom with en-suite | 3 Further bedrooms
Bathroom | Garage/workshop | Gardens | EPC rating C

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 lucy.dale.struttandparker.com



Pen-Y-Bont | Oswestry

Guide price £365,000



Llansantffraid 3 miles | Oswestry 6.7 miles | Welshpool 13 miles

A delightful former water mill, surrounded by gardens with river frontage

Hall | Sitting room/bedroom 3 | Utility room | Shower room
Drawing room | Kitchen | 2 Conservatories | 2 Double bedrooms
Study | Bathroom | Balcony | Double garage | Garden | EPC rating E

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 lucy.dale.struttandparker.com



Llanwddyn | Powys

Guide price £350,000



Llanfyllin 9.5 miles | Llanymynech 19 miles | Oswestry 22 miles

An attractive Grade II List detached cottage situated in beautiful countryside close to Lake Vyrnwy

Entrance hall | Sitting room | Kitchen | Utility room
Ground floor bathroom | 4 Double bedrooms | Shower room
Garden | Parking

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 lucy.dale.struttandparker.com



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Shrewsbury



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Smith
Shrewsbury



Tom Wright
Shrewsbury



Sarah Miller
Shrewsbury



Jack Tavernor
Farm Agency



Pip Wilson
Shrewsbury



Kevin Boulton
Shrewsbury

Chester 01244 354880 | Ludlow 01584 873711 | Shrewsbury 01743 284200
50 offices across England and Scotland, including 10 offices in Central London



Large country home near Offa's Dyke with stunning views

A country residence in a sought-after area with stunning views is for sale with the Oswestry branch of Halls. Golden Grove, Treflach, stands near Offa's Dyke with lovely countryside walks on the doorstep, yet within easy reach of commuter links. On the market at a guide price of £410,000, it has a reception hall, cloakroom, study, lounge, sun lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, boot room/utility, four double bedrooms, bathroom, ample parking and south-facing landscaped gardens with a vegetable plot, garage and garden store. Contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsgb.com for more details.

Halls



Well-presented period cottage packed with original features

A delightful detached cottage in the popular village of Penybontfawr is on the market at £82,000. Rhoslan offers attractive accommodation full of character with two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms, one with walk-in wardrobe and access to loft space, and a spacious bathroom. The property boasts many original features including beams and open fireplaces, and is priced at £82,000. Contact Town & Country on 01691679631 or visit the website www.townandcountryoswestry.com for more details or to arrange a viewing.

TOWN & COUNTRY

tel 01691 679631



Three-bed detached house in a sought-after part of town

On the market with JJ Dell, Tetherdown, Morda Close, is an attractive family home with a large garden in a sought-after part of Oswestry. The detached property is for sale through JJ Dell & Company at £349,950 with the benefit of no upward chain. With gas-fired central heating and double glazing it has a reception hall, kitchen, utility, dining room, sitting room, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom and a dressing room. Contact JJ Dell & Company on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk for more details.

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CHARTERED SURVEYORS



Mature family semi would make a great first-time purchase

A three-bedroom semi-detached house which would make an ideal first-time buy is new on the market with Morris Marshall & Poole. With gas-fired central heating and double glazing, 3 Offa Drive, Oswestry, comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, and lounge with doors to an attractive conservatory. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a lawned front garden and good-sized enclosed rear garden with a patio, lawns and vegetable plot. The property is priced at £125,000. Call Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk for more details.

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Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU.

Chance to take dinner on the famous canal

Advertising feature

MESSING about on boats is a great way to spend a couple of hours, especially when someone else is doing all the hard work.

That's where Peter Jones comes in, an experienced and knowledgeable skipper and proud owner of narrow boats Eirlys and Tommy.

Jones The Boats have been a familiar sight on the Llangollen Canal for over 30 years, delighting visitors with tranquil trips along the waterway, including a breathtaking journey across the famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct, some 126 feet above the valley floor.

With food and drink on board, informative commentary about local history and spectacular scenery, this experience is a lot more than simply 'plain sailing.'

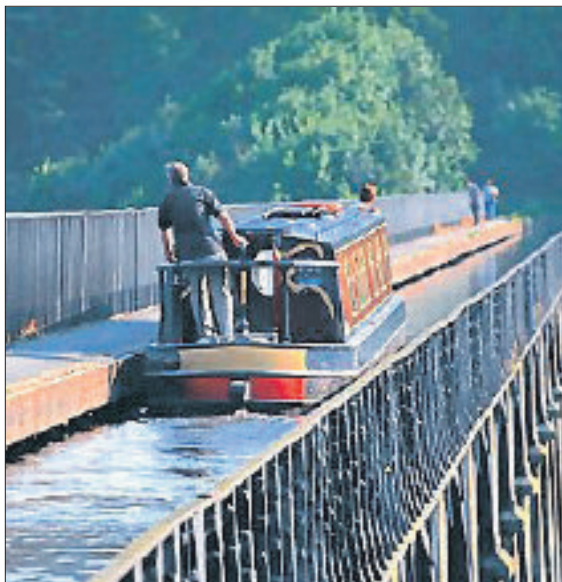
The season runs from Easter until the end of October so you've plenty of time to round up your friends and family for a day to remember.

Brightly decorated in the traditional canal boat style, Eirlys can seat over 50 passengers in comfort - ideal for large coach parties.

As you drift serenely along the canal at walking pace, you can enjoy the fine cuisine with the spectacular backdrop of North Wales' magnificent scenery.

They also operate a two-hour trip, which takes in either a trip up the Dee Valley as far as Bryn Howel or to Chirk Marina, in addition to the Aqueduct trip.

These trips are only available to booked parties with a minimum of 20



Enjoy a day out on the canal with Jones The Boats

passengers and meals are served.

Other destinations include Chirk Aqueduct, the Poacher's Pocket, Lion Quays and Llangollen.

Tommy is available for private charter for parties of up to 20 guests who

can choose from a variety of menus.

Sunday lunches are also served on Tommy, providing an opportunity for smaller groups - even couples - to enjoy a two-hour trip and a two-course roast lunch for only £19 per person.

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NEWS
in brief**Pupils polish their skills in Spanish**

A GROUP of students have travelled to Madrid to practice their language skills.

The 26 students and three staff left on Monday on a five-day trip, organised by the language department at The Marches School in Oswestry, designed to engage students in Spanish life and practice the languages skills learnt in the classroom.

While in Spain, the Year 9 and 10 students will enjoy a visit to the Royal Palace, Real Madrid's Bernabeu stadium, a cable car trip, an historic city tour of Toledo, a visit to the Museo del Prado and the Warner Brothers Theme Park.

Firm donates day to castle clear-up

A TEAM of workers from one firm donated a day's work to help tidy up trees which were blown down at a visitor attraction in the spring storms.

Whittington Castle welcomed the team from Amey, based at nearby Park Hall, to help remove a particularly large tree which had fallen across a path at the boundary of the castle grounds.

A grateful Sue Ellis, castle manager, said: "The company designates community project days for their workers to come and do days in the community. This was one of those."

MP's wife takes on role as racecourse chairman

SHE'S the wife of Environment Secretary and north Shropshire MP Owen Paterson who is creating her own little piece of history - by becoming the first female chairman of Aintree Racecourse in its 185-year history.

Rose Paterson, 57, was appointed to the prestigious position in October last year and officially took up her post at the beginning of this month - meaning she will have no excuse for missing the Grand National which is held at the course every April.

Rose will hold the post for the next three years, and admitted it is a dream job for a lover of horse racing.

She said: "The best bit, for me, is being there on Grand National day. There are 21,000 people there watching, and the amazing atmosphere in that moment before the horses are off. It's one of the greatest sporting moments.

Lucky

"What I do hope is that people judge me not on being a woman, but on my ability as chairman. There have been women associated with Aintree in positions, but I am the first female chairman.

"I am just really lucky to be working with an extremely passionate people, who are great perfectionists."

Rose's new role marks the latest chapter in her love for horses and racing. She has been non-executive director of the committee at the Liverpool racecourse since 2005, her family owns horses and her children used to compete on horseback.

Rose also joined her husband for two weeks trekking across the Mongolian desert three years ago as part of the Mongol Rally, an endurance challenge across vast wastelands several miles from civilisation.

She has replaced Lord Peter Daresbury,

who was chairman for 25 years has moved on to other roles within The Jockey Club, who own the racecourse, including chairman of Haydock Park Racecourse.

Rose said: "At the moment, we're in a really good place. My predecessor did a terrific job over the years, and the course is in such great shape, so we don't need to make any radical changes really."

She began work after the April Grand National, and will now be working with the Aintree management team, as well as course owners The Jockey Club, and Grand National sponsors Crabbie's.

"I really want to build on the experience for people who go racing and I think we can do this by working with our new sponsors, as well as our other sponsors."

"Each penny we make at Aintree goes back into racing, and I think we have a real responsibility to the sport to keep up the high standard for jockeys and spectators."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Pam Kingsley



Rose Paterson, who has been made the new chairman of Aintree Racecourse

Officers capture 13 dogs in 2014

THIRTEEN dogs have been seized in the West Mercia Police region so far this year and two destroyed, it was announced this week.

The statistics were announced as tough new rules came into force that make it possible for owners to be prosecuted for dog attacks on private property.

West Mercia police last year seized 35 dogs, of which 18 were destroyed, and 38 in 2012, when 18 were put down.

Of the dogs seized this year, five were pit bull terriers. Also taken were two American bulldogs, one German shepherd, one Staffordshire bull terrier, one rottweiler, one great Dane and two cross-breeds.

Other breeds brought in by officers in the three previous years included an akita, a Japanese tosa, a husky, a bulldog and a perro de presa canario.

Across the border Dyfed-Powys Police saw a drop in cases, seizing four dogs last year, compared with seven in 2012 and nine in 2011.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said more still needs to be done, adding: "We do not consider breed specific legislation to be effective and would like to see it repealed."

Local Weekly

Newspapers

With You All The Way



Spreading the word about Slimming World



Jan Evans, Claire Morris and Yvonne Urquhart at Oswestry Orthopaedic

SLIMMING World award-winning consultants Jan Evans, Claire Morris and Yvonne Urquhart were invited to take part in Nurses Day at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

"We had a fabulous day," said Jan Evans. "Spreading the word about Slimming World's fantastic healthy eating plan was the order of the day."

"We were talking to people and en-

Advertising feature

couraging them to come along to one of the groups which are run locally where they could find a fantastic eating plan just right for them.

"A plan where there is no weighing and measuring of fresh fruits veg rice pasta potatoes meat poultry and fish and so much more. You can have milk, cheese, bread, cereals and not forgetting chocolate, cake or wine in fact nothing is banned with Slimming World, how good does that sound."

"We have Dr Jackie Lavin working with us to give the very best information to our members. You set your own personal target, which is great as a member. It really is all about what the member wants and everything is totally confidential. This is a great time to get ready for your summer holiday and we would love to see you."

If you would like to know more about any of the groups in this area please contact Jan on 07769 614985, Claire on 07882 174539 or Yvonne on 07939 475426.

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Caffi Wylfa

Castle Rd Chirk
5 pm and 7 pm
Contact
Jan 07769614985

Whole Life Centre

Cabin Lane
Oswestry
5 3m and 7 30 pm
Contact
Claire 01691 654711

Tuesday

Ellesmere Town Hall
Oswestry
5 15 pm and 7 15pm
Contact
Yvonne 01948 710533

slimmingworld.com

0844 897 8000



St Martins Centre

Overton Rd
St Martins
7 30 pm
Contact
Christine 07570779557

Wednesday

Memorial Hall
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Jan
07769614985

Saturday

**Main Entrance
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NEWS
in brief

Firm safeguards patients' modesty

AN OSWESTRY company has launched a new product to help protect the dignity of patients undergoing tests in hospital.

Physiological Measurements Ltd, based in Willow Street, Oswestry, has distributed more than 20,000 EchoVests to hospitals, GP surgeries and medical providers across the UK and has received glowing feedback from health staff.

The vests can be used by any patient whether it be for religious reasons or just to protect the modesty of women or the elderly. During the first week of April, the company provided 3,000 gowns to Birmingham City Hospital.

Train trips on the rise in Shropshire

THE number of people taking the train in Shropshire has more than doubled in the space of two decades, new figures show.

According to figures from the Office of Rail Regulation, 533,000 passenger journeys were made in Shropshire between 1995 and 1996. But that rose to 1.058 million between 2012 and 2013.

The new figures come as talks continue between MPs, campaigners and rail network leaders to establish a direct rail link between Shropshire and London.

Unruly prisoner of war shot dead at Park Hall

by Toby Neal

A LITTLE while ago we told of a German officer's memories of life as a Great War prisoner-of-war held at Oswestry. In defeat, the Germans were defiant, and out to make things difficult for their captors.

And so it was that, only a few days after the signing of the peace treaty in 1919 which officially brought the Great War to an end, 20-year-old Willie Oster was shot dead by one of the guards at the prison camp at Park Hall.

The German prisoners had become unruly since the signing of peace. Led by their officers, they refused to parade for roll call on a Saturday morning in July.

Reinforcements of the Royal Defence Corps were called for and formed a cordon round the prisoners, who were overpowered.

Later the German officers threw parcels of food out of their compound to another compound occupied by German privates, infuriating the guard.

As tensions rose, several hundred Germans gathered near the sentry's post and threw stones at him.



The cemetery on Cannock Chase, where Willie Oster was reburied.

The sentry, a Private Maycock was in earnest it was reported.

Oster, who had climbed to the top of the latrine - to secure a sack of biscuits, according to another prisoner - was hit and killed.

Warning

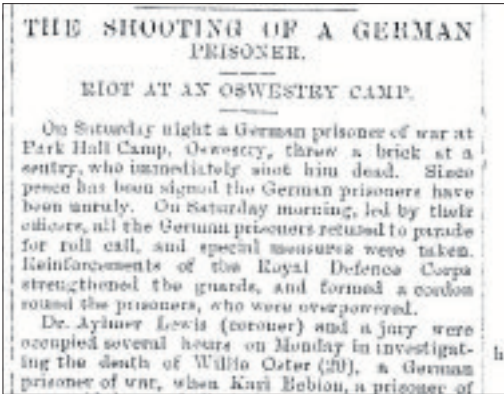
Sympathy for the Germans was distinctly limited. Press reports said Oster threw a brick at the sentry, although Private Maycock's testimony at the inquest

was that he had not seen Oster, and it had been a warning shot.

He did not know until five minutes later that Oster had been hit, he said. A German witness alleged that the killing had been deliberate, but the coroner said this was inconsistent with the position of the wound.

The bullet had passed through two sheets of iron and two boards before hitting Oster in the head.

Captain Parr of the Leicester



How the shooting was reported.

shire Regiment said the rules were too lenient. The only way to stop rioting was to order sentries to shoot, he said.

The jury returned a verdict of misadventure and exonerated Maycock from blame.

Oster was buried in the German cemetery at Park Hall with full military honours. He now lies at the German cemetery at Cannock Chase.

Wigmore Hall date for county musicians

A group of musicians showed off their talents when they performed at an international event with a famous UK ensemble.

The clarinet quartet, from Ellesmere College, performed alongside Ignite, a musical group based at Wigmore Hall, London, at the Whittington International Chamber Music Festival.

Students, Harry Fradley, 15, Alice Tow, 18, Francesca Hughes, 16, and Isabel Ward, 15, were able to perform with the group known for their improvisation skills, thanks to the Wigmore Hall creative outreach programme.

Alice said: "It was a special moment to be performing at an international event alongside such a talented group of professional musicians. The ensemble has a wealth of experience at some of the most prestigious venues in the world."

Ignite is a mixed instrument ensemble. The musicians regularly provide workshops to schools and other musical groups, while performing as an ensemble in their own right.

Anthony Coupe, director of music, said the festival was a great success and a wonderful way to acknowledge the talented ensemble work going on at the school.

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When nature needs our helpful hands

It was a few weeks ago when it happened. That dreary monotony of a promising evening cut short by heavy cloud and a resigned sun.

The car's headlights seemed to pick out nothing more than other cars' headlights, hunched-over pedestrians and tumbling leaves. Not a pleasant dusk.

You might have thought therefore that attempting to see any interesting goings-on out the window would be a fruitless pursuit and yet thankfully the eyes of my wife do not give up so easily.

She noticed the blackbird, huddled in the gutter and as a persistent drizzle began, it truly looked a sorry sight.

Hurrying across the road to claim it, the creature put up no defence. Its eyes were both closed and there was blood on its head and beak. A fairly hopeless case we thought.

But if I've learnt anything in my three decades of curiosity towards the natural world, it's that nature is remarkable for its stolid resistance to death and if given just half a chance, an animal or plant will endure.

And so we tried to give that miserable bundle of rapidly dropping feathers half a chance. Armed with a syringe of warm, salted water we bathed his wounds and tried to flush any dirt and grime from his cracked beak.

We left him after having successfully given him a glucose infused rehydrating drink and a hot water bottle.

The next morning his eyes were still closed but on approach he was just able to open one. More flushing with salty water and a rather grim forcing of liquidated food down his throat and he was looking a little perkier.

However it was clear that we had not one ounce of expertise and so after a couple of days it was off to the rescue centre.

Cuan House is a remarkable place. Nestled amongst the character buildings and beneath the Shropshire Hills, the surrounding area is a haven

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



for wildlife. Cuan House was founded in the early 1990s by Megan Morris-Jones and her husband, John.

A love of wildlife and a relocation from the Scottish coast to Much Wenlock found them soon inquiring to the RSPCA to see what services were available in the area for injured wildlife. Other than veterinary centres, there was none.

As word began to spread of Megan and John's dedication they quickly out grew their small cottage. From there they moved to 'Cuan House' and they were shortly granted charitable status.

Sadly John died at the end 2006, and Megan found herself taking on all his administrative responsibilities as well. And yet somehow, through their shared passion for the natural world, Megan, her daughter Anna, friends and a small army of volunteers have carried the centre forward and Cuan House is currently in the process of relocating to larger premises.

When I visited with our blackbird, I was greeted by dogs, various squawking birds hedgehogs and a menagerie of fox cubs, fledglings and a particularly beautiful buzzard. My blackbird was in safe hands.

Three weeks later his beak was mended, his eyes open and he was ready to return. I released him a few metres from where we had picked him up and he very nearly bowled me over in his eagerness to escape the box. Nature of course reigns supreme in the natural world. But passion and drive from a few people along with a warm heart and a helping hand also goes a long way.

Join Ben at Ellesmere College for the National Art Exhibition today (Thursday).



Ben's blackbird after its rehabilitation

Group offers free badger vaccinations

A BADGER vaccination scheme is being introduced in Shropshire, with the campaign group offering to carry it out free of charge.

Members of the Shropshire Badger Group say they want to prove that vaccination is the way forward to tackle the problem of bovine tuberculosis.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for the Environment and North Shropshire MP, Owen Paterson, that there is to be no extension of badger culling this year, the Shropshire Badger Group said it wanted to reaffirm its support for vaccination as a very effective method of dealing with bovine TB within the mammal's population.

To help prove how effective it could be, the group has pledged to offer a four year vaccination scheme to the first six farmers in Shropshire who contact the group.

And it said its volunteers would do preparatory work for any further farmers completely free of charge with just the vaccinations themselves to pay for.

Plans to roll out the pilot culls of badgers carried out by Defra last year were delayed after not enough badgers were culled during the allotted time.

Jim Ashley, chairman of the Shropshire Badger Group, said that all the surveys carried out showed that the level of disease in the badger population was actually quite low.

He said: "Vaccination is a highly successful and proven method of dealing with disease in both animal and human populations and we have every confidence in the extensive trials of the BCG vaccine at the Government Research Station in Gloucestershire as well as gathering the experience from the Welsh Vaccination Project, and from our own and Shropshire Wildlife Trust's involvement in vaccination projects within Shropshire.

"We are well aware that bovine TB is a very difficult problem within the farming industry and so as a gesture of our desire to help and support farmers in dealing with this problem, we intend to demonstrate our confidence in badger vaccination by offering full four year vaccination schemes to the first six Shropshire farmers to contact us - totally free of charge.

"If we can find further funding, then we will continue with the totally free schemes," he said. Contact www.shropshirebadgergroup.co.uk or (01743) 271999.

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THE ARTS

Artist donates prize to hillfort fighting fund

by Iain St John

ARTISTS have given their backing to a campaign calling for controversial housing plans in the shadow of an ancient hillfort to be scrapped.

Sculptor Tony Roberts has created a tribute in glass to Old Oswestry hillfort after hearing about controversial plans to build 117 houses nearby.

He has donated his work to a fund-raising raffle organised by fellow artist Diana Baur to raise money for the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort campaign group which is fighting the housing plans.

The unusual sculpture is carved with ancient Celtic glyphs or symbols which spell out 'Caer Ogyrfan', translated as City of Ogyrfan.

This was an early name for the 3,000 year old earthwork taken from the Welsh chieftain, Ogyrfan, of Arthurian legend.

He was the father of Gwenevere (Guinevere), King Arthur's queen who is said to have been born on the hillfort.

Mr Roberts, from Knockin Heath, said: "The glyphs are phonetic and read from the bottom up."

The sculpted symbols were formed using a technique called kiln carving where molten glass is poured onto a precast glass base and carved while still hot and soft.

The housing plans in the shadow of the hillfort have been included in Shropshire Council's Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) plan, which is mapping out future development in the county



Artist Tony Roberts and raffle winner John Alderson

until 2026. Two out of three proposed housing sites in the shadow of Old Oswestry have been removed from the plan following overwhelming opposition.

HOOOH submitted a 21 page response challenging the soundness of the remaining site for 117 houses, as part of the final public consultation

on SAMDev which closed at the end of April. The raffle raised £95. Raffle winner John Alderson, of Crewe, visited the Willow Gallery in Oswestry to collect his prize and meet its creator.

He said: "It is encouraging to see people come together to campaign so passionately for the protection of such an important monument."

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Traditional folk on stage at town's new venue

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts

THE Hut People will be turning The Hermon into a musical melting pot in Oswestry on Saturday with their infectious blend of folk and world music.

Playing traditional folk seasoned with sounds from across the globe, the band has quickly gained a reputation as one of the most entertaining and unique acts in the UK.

Consisting of Sam Pirt and Gary Hammond, the duo's wholly organic sound mixes together elements of British, Nordic and European music.

Duties

Sam handles the accordion duties while Gary's in charge of the vast array of obscure and exotic percussion the band utilises.

When he's not performing as part of The Hut People, Sam spends his time playing with Radio 2 Folk award winners, 422.

Gary has spent the last 12 years recording and touring with The Beautiful South, as well as working with Nina Simone.

There will also be support from Jeff Simmons and the gig starts at 7.30pm with tickets costing £7.

Talented trio, Not Completely



The Hut People at The Hermon in Oswestry

Blonde, will be taking to the stage at The Royal Oak, Welshpool this Friday.

One of the local music scene's best home grown acts, the band is made up of Aliana Chambers, Beth Jones and Fiona MacKellar.

The three girls originally got together back in 2011 and it's been on-wards and upwards ever since, having supported the likes of Stringer Bessant

and Larkin Poe on their UK tours.

Recently they released their second EP titled 'Not Completely An Album', displaying a group that have really come into their own. The gig starts at 9pm and as always it's free entry.

If you head over to The Lowfield Inn, Marton this Friday there will be music from acoustic duo Sean and Alex. The free gig starts at 8pm.

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NEWS
in briefChirk and Powis
host music festival

TWO castles on the Shropshire border are to play host to the country's oldest classical music festival.

Powis and Chirk castles, which are both owned by the National Trust, will host several parts of this year's Gregynog Festival during in June.

On June 13 and 14 there will be events at Chirk Castle and the festival will move to Powis Castle on June 15. Tickets for all three concerts are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.gregynog-festival.org or on (01686) 207100. Tickets for the history talk cost £5 and can be purchased at Powis Castle or on (01938) 551929.

Events are raising
funds for Roma

A series of wine tastings, open mic nights, community days and quizzes in Oswestry will be raising money to help members of the Roma community in eastern Europe.

The events are being held by PurpleFish in Oswestry throughout the year, with organisers hoping to raise more than £1,000 towards the project in Montenegro.

The next event will be a quiz night on June 7 in The Unicorn Pub, Unicorn Road, Oswestry, at 7.30pm. Entry is £10 for teams of up to six people.

Grave of Victoria Cross winner is to be restored

by Toby Neal

THE headstone of the grave of an Oswestry Victoria Cross winner from the Great War is to be spruced up as part of a £100,000 cash pot.

The scheme in the centenary year of the outbreak of the conflict has been announced by Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and aims to restore all graves in need of repair, and clean or replace headstones.

Among those in line for restoration is the grave of Oswestry-born Harold Whitfield, who died on December 19, 1956 – ironically, after being knocked off his bicycle by an Army Land Rover – and is buried at Oswestry cemetery.

Valour

Although several Shropshire men won the VC during the Great War, Mr Whitfield was the only member of the county regiment, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, to receive the highest award for valour.

Private Whitfield, who was in the 10th Battalion of the KSLI, won the medal on March 10, 1918, fighting against the Turks. He charged and captured a Lewis gun position, bayoneted or shot the



Harold Whitfield, buried in Oswestry

whole team, and then turned the Lewis gun on the enemy. Later he organised and led a bombing attack and drove the enemy back.

Promoted to Sergeant in the field, he was later presented the medal by the King in Leeds.

After his death his family put the medal into a bank at Oswestry for safe keeping but in 1977 a young bank clerk stole it and sold it to a London dealer. The dealer became suspicious and the medal was later returned to the family.



The grave of the Victoria Cross winner Harold Whitfield

Whitfield is buried at Oswestry with his first wife, Mary, who had died in June 1927 of cancer aged only 27. They had a daughter. In November 1929 he married Rose Scoltock, who was his housekeeper at Drenewydd Farm, Whittington.

A further eight children followed. The department says that while some graves only require minor work, others have fallen into disrepair – headstones have become illegible and stones have crumbled away leaving them unstable.

School in challenge for help to save lives

A PRIMARY school has laid down a challenge to its pupils to raise £1,000 so that it can buy a lifesaving piece of equipment.

Morda Church of England Primary School, near Oswestry, has launched its fundraising appeal to buy an automated external defibrillator (AED) within 12 months.

A defibrillator is a lifesaving machine that gives the heart an electric shock and can improve survivability chances in case of sudden cardiac arrest by up to 80 per cent.

Deputy headteacher Anna Griggs, who is leading the fundraising campaign, said: "We provide a full range of sport and outdoor activities to our young people and want to ensure if a life threatening situation does arise we can provide the best immediate attention to any casualty until the medical professionals arrive.

"If the campaign is a success we may even be able to provide a similar machine in the local community."

Headteacher John Eglin said: "The school aims to provide the highest standards of education to our young people and provide a safe environment in which to learn."

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*Source: ABC

Range Rover is pure class

By Graham Breeze

In over 35 years as a motoring writer, readers continue to ask me what the best car I have ever driven is.

It's a harder question than you may think because there are now so many sectors and so many different cars out there to meet the differing needs of today's owner and driver.

But in a choice from Maseratis to Minis and Bentleys to BMWs nothing stands out more than the Range Rover Sport – quite simply the outstanding vehicle I have driven.

Make no mistake, the Range Rover Sport is far too expensive for the average driver and you really need to dig deeper into those pockets for the Dynamic Pack if you want to benefit from the 'Sport' brand.



But there's no getting away from the fact that this is a superb piece of motoring engineering.

It's comfortable, classy and quiet on the road, and while there is competition that is quicker and more fun to drive, none are as refined as this model.

If you want to be the best in class you can. Simply step up to the V8 model and there's nothing out there with a remote chance of equalling performance. But you will have to pay over £81,000. Even the cheapest 3.0 TDV6 will set you back £51,550.

Movement

I tested the Sport at launch last year, discovering that you can come to a standstill from 140mph without a hint of movement – something you shouldn't try at home by the way.

But for more sedate motoring I have now enjoyed a week behind the wheel discovering that Range Rover Sport is a hushed cruiser with little wind or road noise.

The TDV6 diesel engine gives you more power than you will really ever need and is quite superb on the motorway. An eight-speed automatic gearbox is standard and seamless.

The cabin has that quality feel that makes this model stand out from all the competition. Quite frankly this is as good as it gets – and you don't feel like getting out.

Every surface and switch feels classy, while electronic instrument dials – borrowed from the regular Range Rover – lend a modern twist to an otherwise stately driver environment.

There's ample luxurious seating for five



'The TDV6 diesel engine gives you more power than you will really ever need and is quite superb on the motorway'

and as you would expect vision is about as good as it gets from a lofty position.

You can specify a third row of seats, enabling you to carry up to seven people. These fold down into the boot floor electrically when not needed to reveal a massive loading area.

All the instruments are exactly where you would expect to find them, but I had my usual battle with a complicated touchscreen infotainment system which may be a little too complicated – though it could just be me struggling with new technology.

The Sport comes with a stability system that incorporates roll and trailer control with six airbags, deadlocks, locking wheel nuts and an alarm.

The SDV6 HSE would set you back a cool £60,000 but you get 0-60mph in 6.8 seconds, a top speed of 130mph and an average of 37.7mpg.

You won't be popular with the 'greens' though because CO2 levels are high at 199g/km.

I'm just popping down the shops to get the Lotto numbers on – we can all dream.

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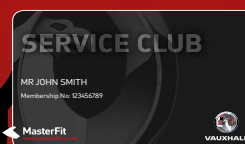
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SPORT

Struggling Church C suffer their fifth defeat

ROCK-BOTTOM Church C suffered more woe after crashing to their fifth defeat of the season in the Oswestry and District Bowls League division three when well beaten 9-1 at basement rivals Flexsys B.

Roy Jones bagged the solitary point for the visitors, who are now four points adrift at the foot of the table, while there were four single figure defeats.

At the other end of the table, high-flying ELLESMERE A crashed 8-2 (151-132) at WHITTINGTON E, their two replies coming from Curtis Metcalfe (21-9) and Roger Barkley (21-16). The heavy defeat sees their lead at the summit trimmed to just three points, with Ellesmere's B string stepping up the pressure in second spot after hammering Whittington B 9-2 (167-96) at home. Doug McCoy took the coppers to five, while Mike Edwards won to six and Glyn Davies to nine.

FOXY LANE sustained their challenge in division four after securing a hard-fought 6-4 success at LLANYMYNECH B, taking the aggregate by just three shots (134-131). Simon Hayman led the way to nine, David Edwards coming through to 10, while the best reply for the hosts came from Kieran Jones (21-10). Victory keeps Fox on the prowl, just one point behind Ruabon B who took over top spot with a 9-1 (161-83) home romp against Llangynog C.

LLANFYLLIN A are still propping up the table after slumping 9-1 at Ceiriog Valley, losing the shots 164-101, with their consolation coming from Mervyn Powell (21-17). WESTON RHYN B, who lie just one place above, fared even worse as they suffered a 10-0 (168-111) whitewash at Overton B, Margaret White going closest when losing to 18.

In division five, WHITTINGTON D fell further adrift at the foot of the table following their 8-2 (158-100) home loss to their club's C team, whose Dave Pritchard was the best of the night with a 21-5 victory. Rita Moir and Ian Chalmers both replied 21-16 for the lowly D side.

YE OLDE CROFTE B continue to fly high in division six despite suffering a narrow 6-4 (127-124) reverse at Cynydd C. It was nip and tuck throughout despite the leaders having to concede one game, and they secured three single figure wins, the best being Val Francis who prevailed 21-7. Bert Burton won to eight and Geoff Thomas to nine.

Glenis Bennett fired a 21-4 success as CHURCH E swept aside LLANFYLLIN B 8-2 (139-121) to lift themselves away from the basement, with Norman Lloyd responding with a similar single figure score.

Results:
Division two: Black Lion 2 George 8 (126-157). Division three: Ellesmere B 9 Whittington B 1 (167-96). Flexsys B 9 Church C 1 (166-88). Johnstown D 4 Plas Kynaston A 6 (130-142). Royston A 9 Ceiriog Valley B 1 (163-112). Weston Rhyll C 7 Chirk A 3 (150-131). Whittington E 8 Ellesmere A 2 (151-132). Division four: Bersham 9 Llanhaeadr C 1 (166-88). Ceiriog Valley C 9 Llanyfyllin A 1 (164-101). Llanguollen B 8 Corwen B 2 (159-125). Llanymynech B 4 Fox Lane 6 (131-134). Overton B 10 Weston Rhyll B 9 (168-111). Ruabon B 9 Llangynog C 1 (161-83). Division five: Llanhaeadr B 7 Overton C 3 (151-124). Plas Kynaston B 3 Cynydd B 7 (125-157). Whittington D 2 Whittington C 6 (100-158). Division six: Church E 8 Llanyfyllin B 2 (139-121). Cynydd C 6 Church B 4 (127-124). Llangynog B 7 Johnstown E 3 (144-140).

■ In the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League, Ifton's home clash with Sir John Bayley was postponed. Ifton visit Bowring on Friday night.



Oswestry's Michael Doyle

Doyle bags trophy haul

A 14-YEAR-OLD Oswestry School swimmer, who has been successfully competing all over the UK, is now taking part in gruelling aquathlon and triathlon events.

Year nine student Michael Doyle is now working towards regional qualifying times. He won gold in a 1500m qualifying event in Leeds, and claimed bronze in the 400m event.

Bernie Tudhope, swimming coach at Oswestry School, said "Michael has worked extremely hard and has every right to be proud of his achievements."

Ladies are fast out of the blocks

THE ladies teams of Oswestry Tennis Club were out in force with both securing their first full Shropshire League wins of the season.

The first team had their first home fixture to new group one participants Cound and pleasant weather brought out some good play.

In the first round rubbers, Oswestry's first pairing of captain Josie Macrae and Kat Oakley quickly finished off Cound's first pair in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

Then, the second pair of Eirian Jones and new member Fiona Russell dismissed Cound's second pairing in similar fashion with a 7-5, 6-3 victory.

With a two rubbers lead, Oswestry

continued to apply the pressure in the reverse rubbers, but Macrae and Oakley had a harder time against Cound's second string with Macrae suffering from a recurring elbow injury.

However, they still managed to come through while Jones and Russell continued the trend with an impressive victory against Cound's first pair to give their side the full eight points.

The second team, also playing their first home fixture, were up against Hinstock first team. The first pair of Carol Slater and Speth Cumpston were in good form and they soon dispatched the opposing first pair for the loss of only three games 6-1, 6-2.

The second pair of captain Linda Davies with Linda Clark were also victorious in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 giving the home side a good two love lead going into the reverse rubbers.

Unfortunately, the weather deteriorated as heavy rain began to fall but Slater and Cumpston continued their good form and came away with the same score as in their first rubber. 6-2, 6-1.

Team Davies managed to consolidate this by taking the first set in their reverse rubber 6-3 and were trailing 3-5 when torrential rain brought play to an abrupt end leaving the result seven and a half to a half in favour of the Oswestry ladies.

GUILDSFIELD rocked by nine-wicket hammering

GUILDSFIELD'S cricketers beat the wet weather – but remain at the foot of the Shropshire League division four after suffering a nine-wicket hammering at high-flying Harpers.

Put in to bat in damp conditions at Harpers Adams College, the Guils were shot out for just 44 in 22 overs, with Mohit Gupta doing the bulk of the damage with 5-22 from 10 overs.

All-rounder Daniel Brown, who smashed a century in a welcome win the week before, and George Murray were the only two players to get into double figures with 11 apiece, the latter finishing not out.

Despite losing an early wicket in reply when Rhodri Davies removed opener Vipul Kolhapure for a duck, Harpers eased to their modest target in just 5.3 overs to tighten their grip on top spot with Sultan Choudhry cracking 33 not out, including a six and five fours.

Elsewhere, it was a bleak picture with every other team left kicking their heels due to the wet weather that washed out the Shropshire County League fixture list.

OSWESTRY'S clash at Old Hill in the Birmingham League division one was also abandoned without a ball bowled, with the Merda Road side not even travelling. The second team's home fixture with Penn was also an early casualty, the same story for the fourth team's visit to Ludlow IV and the thirds' home game with Wheaton Aston on Sunday.

PLACINGS

Oswestry Bowling League

DIVISION 1					
	P	W	L	G	Agg Pts
Crittins A.....	6	6	0	0	+147 41
Johnstown.....	6	6	0	0	+102 41
Whittington.....	6	4	2	0	+86 39
Ceiriog Va.....	6	3	3	0	+132 38
Ruabon A.....	6	4	2	0	+104 37
Church A.....	6	4	2	0	- 5 32
Cynydd A.....	6	3	3	0	+15 30
Corwen A.....	6	1	4	1	-68 23
Flexsys A.....	6	2	4	0	-88 22
Johnstown.....	6	1	4	1	-131 22
Chirk AAA.....	6	1	5	0	-59 20
Llanymynech.....	6	0	6	0	-235 15

DIVISION 2					
	P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Llangollen.....	6	5	1	0	+170 43
Overton A.....	6	4	2	0	+29 33
George.....	6	3	3	0	+10 33
Crittins C.....	6	4	2	0	+40 32
Ye Olde Cr.....	6	3	3	0	+37 31
Johnstown.....	6	3	3	0	+30 31
Llanhaeadr.....	6	3	3	0	+27 30
Weston Rhyll.....	6	2	3	1	+22 30
Llangynog.....	6	3	3	0	-7 29
Crittins B.....	6	2	4	0	-112 25
Black Lion.....	6	1	4	1	-73 22
Church B.....	6	2	4	0	-173 21

DIVISION 3					
	P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ellesmere.....	6	5	1	0	+226 42
Ellesmere.....	6	4	2	0	+159 39
Chirk AAA.....	6	4	2	0	+0 30 35
Plas Kynas.....	6	5	1	0	+9 35
Whittington.....	6	3	3	0	+35 33
Johnstown.....	6	3	3	0	+18 31
Weston Rhyll.....	6	3	3	0	+33 30
Royston A.....	6	2	4	0	-52 28
Whittington.....	6	2	4	0	-15 27
Flexys B.....	6	2	4	0	-122 25
Ceiriog Va.....	6	2	4	0	-102 20
Church C.....	6	1	5	0	-279 15

DIVISION 4					
	P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ruabon B.....	6	5	1	0	+143 41
Fox Lane.....	6	5	1	0	+167 40
Ceiriog Va.....	6	3	3	0	+102 39
Llangollen.....	6	4	2	0	+139 38
Bersham.....	6	5	1	0	+122 36
Llanhaeadr.....	6	4	2	0	-45 31
Overton B.....	6	2	4	0	-8 30
Corwen B.....	6	2	4	0	-40 26
Llanymynech.....	6	2	4	0	-115 23
Llangng.....	6	1	5	0	-143 19
Weston Rhyll.....	6	2	4	0	-160 19
Llanyfyllin.....	6	1	5	0	-162 18

DIVISION 5					
	P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Cynwyd B.....	6	5	1	0	+160 42
Llanhaeadr.....	6	4	1	1	+114 38
Overton C.....	6	4	2	0	+100 37
Johnstown.....	5	3	2	0	+28 31
Llanhaeadr.....	6	3	3	0	-12 31
Crittins D.....	5	3	2	0	+59 28
Church D.....	6	3	3	0	-15 28
Plas Kynas.....	6	2	3	1	-18 28
Whittington.....	6	2	4	0	-49 26
Chirk AAA.....	6	2	4	0	-94 26
Royston B.....	6	2	4	0	-71 25
Whittington.....	6	0	6	0	-257 10

DIVISION 6					
	P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ye Olde Cr.....	6	3	3	0	+194 39
Ruabon C.....	4	3	1	0	+139 30
Weston Rhy.....	5	3	2	0	-32 26
Llanfyllin.....	6	3	3	0	-71 25
Weston Rhy.....	5	2	3	0	-17 24
Llangynog.....	4	3	1	0	+48 23
Cynydd C.....	6	2	3	1	-93 22
Johnstown.....	4	2	2	0	+73 20
Church E.....	4	2	2	0	-72 20
Llanhaeadr.....	4	0	3	1	-169 11

Improving Nicoll still has shot at Commonwealths

WELSHPOOL shot-putter Adele Nicoll underlined her credentials by smashing her personal best to keep alive her hopes of booking her ticket for this summer's Commonwealth Games.

Competing at the Loughborough international, Nicoll powered to a personal best throw of 14.65m, more than 30cm longer than any mark she managed in 2013 to maintain her remarkable rise in the sport.

Up against a field made up of strong athletes from across the United Kingdom, the distance left her finishing sixth overall, but the 17-year-old former Oswestry Olympian ook confidence from her personal performance.

Nicoll enjoyed a season to remember in 2013, gaining selection for the World Youth Championships in the Ukraine, where she finished 11th. Now, after an impressive start to this summer's outdoor campaign, the teenager believed she could throw even further.

Opportunity

"I knew I was in good shape coming into the competition and I just wanted to make the most of the opportunity of competing in a strong field," said the current Welsh Under-20 champion.

"I got a life time best which was 35cm off the B standard for the Commonwealth Games and that was in a field against the best seniors in England, Scotland, the best athletes at Loughborough University, the GB juniors as well as my



Wales teammates. I was really pleased with my performance, and it was great to represent Wales and pull on that top. I love the competition, it brings the best people together and you strive to do your best.

"It's been a great start to the season but I hope that it is just the beginning and I will carry on improving."

With distances improving all the time, Nicoll, who also competes in the discus, is remaining hopeful that she can secure selection for this summer's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

As a minimum, she needs to throw the 15m 'B' standard

ard twice and, with confidence soaring, Birchfield Harrier Nicoll is not ruling out making a late charge.

"I am still quite young but I am getting close to the B standard and just to be mentioned as having the potential is great," she added.

"It would be a massive privilege and honour to be asked to compete at the Games, probably something you can't really describe until you are there.

"I hope I can push on towards that but if not I have been asked to attend the senior British Championships so that is another target."

Davies delivers for Elite



Oswestry-based Team Elite coaches and fighters, from left: Ollie Morris, Stephen Andrews, Rich Cosgrove, Gavin Magnet Davies, Mick Broster, Mark Handley

GAVIN MAGNET DAVIES continues to prove an asset for the Oswestry-based Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) club Team Elite after producing another winning display while competing at the ISKA Cage Fighting event at the Liquid nightclub in Wrexham.

Having shown his worth after moving over to team Elite about 18 months ago, Davies was fighting against Thomas Mur-

ray at a professional level. Both fighters came out and exchanged a few blows to feel each other out. Murray went for a take-down but Davies defended and ended up on top. He then landed a few punches and elbows before securing an arm and submitting Thomas with a Kimura (a shoulder lock where your arm is bent up behind your back towards your head).

Marches student sets series best



Rhys Chandler competing in the International Topper Class Association series

Rapid Rhys is making waves

RHYS CHANDLER, a student at The Marches School, certainly has the wind in his sails after enjoying plenty of success on the water.

The young sailor is currently competing in the ITCA (International Topper Class Association) series which includes five regattas, the most recent of which have been held at Grahams Water and Rutland Water.

And he has been enjoying great success in the series so far, including finishing an impressive 58th out of 178 at Grahams, with a best result of 11th, his highest-placed performance to date.

The latest event, held at Rutland Sailing Club, saw Rhys secure a 25th place in the ITCA series and then, following a recent call-up by the Welsh Yachting Association (WAY), helped Wales secure third position in the Eric Twinnale event.

Rhys, who trains on Bala lake and has only been sailing since August 2013, was competing against many GBR Topper squad members in the competition.

"My goal for this year was to finish in the top 50 percent overall at a national series event. Having now achieved this, I am now aiming to finish in the top 30 percent at a national series event," he said.



The Marches School's Rhys Chandler

Rhys, a year 10 pupil, will be competing in the nationals in August, which is held over six days in Pwllheli. His next ITCA event is in July at Derwent Sailing Club.

He added, "I am also competing in the Welsh CYRC events held at various locations across north Wales over the summer period, and the Welsh zones held at Pembroke Sailing Club.

"My plans for the future are to gain a place on the Topper Welsh National squad for 2015 and then who knows where next, maybe the Americas Cup or around the World!"

Touch of class from Adaggio seals spoils

ELLESMERE RANGERS came from behind to reach the West Midlands League Premier Division Cup final with a moment of magic from Marco Adaggio.

The Meresiders star striker's stunning scissor kick from Mike O'Reilly's cross in the second-half clinched a 2-1 victory against Wolverhampton Casuals.

The away side, who finished third in the league with 98 points, had taken the lead in the first-half against 11th-placed Ellesmere at Beech Grove.

Scott Ryan's deflected shot in the second-half restored parity, against a team who had they had drawn 6-6 with in March's home league fixture.

It made it 11 wins in a row for Rangers and put them in sight of a club double, after beating AFC Bridgnorth to take the Shropshire Premier Cup.

A number of the first-team were also involved in the Midland Floodlit Youth League Cup and Umbro Cup winning campaigns with the under-18 side.

Director of football Alan Davis said: "We were absolutely superb again and they had a strong side out. We have every optimism of winning the trophy now."

"Marco's strike was definitely goal of the season, it was exactly like Wayne Rooney's scissor kick against Manchester City at Old Trafford three years ago."

"The lads deserved to win and they just kept on surprising us. We have played 19 games since April 1, but we still keep pulling it in from somewhere."

Cup double hopes over for Berriew

BERRIEW'S hopes of adding a second piece of silverware were dashed after missing out on a place in the final of the Montgomeryshire Cup.

Just five days after lifting the Spar Mid Wales League Cup with a 2-1 final victory over Bow Street, the Rhinewiders were in action again, this time against Carno in the semi-final of the Montgomeryshire Cup. But hopes of progressing were dashed after suffering a 2-1 loss with Jojo Harries and Peter Rees netting for Carno who will now meet Waterloo Rovers in the final.

■ The annual meeting of the Spar Mid Wales League will be held at Llanidloes Golf Club on Monday June 16.

GOLF RETURNS

OSWESTRY

President's Prize: T Miller 38; S Thompson 37; B Witter 36 (c/b); A Allen 36 (c/b); J Taylor 36 (c/b); C Harrison 36. Best Gross: G Evans 74. Informal Mixed Foursomes: J Hewett & E Moss 67; S & E Pearce 67.5; O Hughes & K Jones 71.5 (c/b); M & C Smith 71.5; V & T Hyde 73. Captain's May Taxes Scramble: P and J Bowers, C Berry and C Newman 55.9; K Gardner, D Moore, G Hingley and G Lee 56.1.

HENLE PARK

36-hole Competition Men Combined Score: R Tattersall 76pts; I Fort 74pts; G Hughes 72pts. Best Saturday score - E Williams 41pts; best Sunday score - J Dimelow 43pts.

Ladies Combined Score: D Nicol 71pts; L Edwards 66pts; D Lawlor 62pts. Best Saturday score - L Edwards 33pts; best Sunday score - D Edwards 37pts.

Senior Individual Stableford Qualifier Division 1: T Telford 39pts; A Hardy 37pts. Division 2: M Morris 38pts (c/b); T Price 37pts.

Dave Saiter Cup: G Hughes 21pts (c/b); M Evans 21pts; C Brooks 21pts.

Young guns run out of steam at the final hurdle

THE NEW SAINTS' young guns saw their hopes of retaining the North East Wales FA Under-19 Cup dashed as they lost 2-0 to Airbus UK Broughton in the final at a very wet Brickfield Rangers.

It was perhaps one game too far for Steve Evans' side who, after winning the Shropshire Colleges County Cup and playing in a competitive tournament at Walford and North Shropshire College a few days earlier, unsurprisingly looked jaded as they completed their hectic end to the season.

The first chance came Airbus' way when Henry Carver ran into the box before having his low right-foot shot saved by Saints keeper Stewart Evans.

The Wingmakers went close again in the 22nd minute when Myles Hart's free kick from 35 yards was well palmed past his right-hand post by Evans for a corner.

Carver's low left foot shot from 30 yards

was then superbly turned past the post by Evans.

Saints' first chance of note came in the 27th minute when substitute Harrison Millington, who had replaced the injured Ryan Pryce, turned his man outside the box before seeing his low shot fingertipped into the side netting by Airbus keeper Ollie Parker.

At the other end in the 37th minute, the lively Carver was denied again by Evans.

After losing Pryce, Saints suffered a further disruption when the injured Conor Rogers was replaced by Liam Walker.

However, they went close to breaking the deadlock two minutes before half-time when Dylan Jones' shot from outside the area was somehow fumbled onto the roof of the net by Parker for a corner.

The first serious chance of the second half came Airbus' way in the 51st minute

when Aaron Hassall's corner from the right was only half cleared by the Saints defence to Josh Maldon, whose right foot shot from 25 yards was brilliantly tipped away to his right by Evans.

Airbus went even closer just before the hour mark when Hassall's throw-in from the left found Hart. He touched the ball on to Carver who cleverly backheeled it to Connor Littler for a right-foot shot from the edge of the box that hit the outside of the post.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 66th minute when Carver won the ball in midfield and fed Noah Edwards wide on the right. He then cut the ball back across to Hassall who laid it back for Hart to send an exquisite shot from 30 yards over Evans and into the net.

Just two minutes later, it was 2-0 when Hassall teed-up Carver for a shot from the

edge of the box that slipped through Evans' fingers and into the net.

It was the only blemish in an otherwise solid performance by the keeper who had earlier made at least three excellent saves to keep his side in the game.

TNS were unlucky not to pull a goal back three minutes from time when Rhys Cooper's low left-foot drive from some 35 yards took a deflection before the ball came back off Parker's left-hand post.

This may have been a game too far for Evans' troops in their hectic end of season schedule but it has been a terrific campaign - having won the Welsh Premier under-19 League, while reaching the FAW Welsh Youth Cup final (losing to a very good Swansea City side) before going on to lift the Shropshire Colleges County Cup - and all the players can be proud of what they have achieved.

Saints net council backing for training facility boost

FOOTBALL

by John Bridgwater

THE NEW SAINTS have secured land with Shropshire Council to provide an additional full size floodlit pitch, six floodlit 3G mini pitches and additional parking.

The club had released plans to expand its football facilities back in February, with its "Football Hub" to be located on a 10-acre Greenfield land adjacent to The Venue and Park Hall Stadium.

The club will shortly be submitting a funding application to the FA of Wales from its 3G strategy fund for the scheme which is estimated to cost around £1m, and is also seeking other potential funding partners.

TNS Chief Operation Officer, Ian Williams said: "We are really excited about the project as it will allow the club to grow its football business and provide first class facilities for the local community."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Former TNS front runner Nicky Ward, one of the Welsh Premier League's most enduring characters, has decided to hang up his boots and continue to enhance his coaching qualifications.

A career which started with Newtown 16 years ago ended with the 36-year-old claiming Huws Gray Alliance and NEWFA cup medals with Cefn Druids and he has now joined Penycyae as assistant manager.

Ward scored 88 goals from 272 (+49) WPL appearances. Formerly with both Wrexham and Shrewsbury Town, he left Newtown to join The New Saints and play a part in the 2000 title win.

After claiming three more WPL winners' medals he was not offered terms by TNS for 2007/8 and, after a year in London where he signed for Welling United, he returned to the league with Druids in June 2008, moving back to Newtown in January 2009.

Medal

Ward's career enjoyed an Indian summer after a move to Bangor City a year later where he added another league winner's medal to his collection, but he made a surprise return to TNS in August 2011.

He helped the club to a league and Welsh Cup double in 2011/12 but left by mutual consent in August and, after a spell with Airbus UK Broughton, rejoined the Druids in October last year.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ TNS Academy players Tom Williams, Sam Jones and Darren Evans, who are part of the under-13s squad, have been called up to represent their region in this week's Cymru Cup.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ A special footballing five-a-side event, Men Uniting for Charity, will be taking place at Park Hall Stadium next month.

With 26 teams already registered, there are only six spaces places left, so any teams wishing to participate in the tournament, on Sunday, June 15, must register as soon as possible. The five aside World Cup-style tournament is aimed at local businesses, and looks to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

The event on Father's Day has been organised by Morgans of Oswestry and The New Saints Community Foundation.

A family fun day will be held around the five aside event at The Venue, with teams of up to seven players drawn from businesses in the area, playing group stages, quarter and semi finals before the final.

The winners of the competition will be presented with the Soccerfest Charity Cup.

Martin Cap, owner of Morgans of Oswestry, urged businesses to put forward a team and added: "We would like to invite local businesses to join us in helping to raise some much needed money for Prostate Cancer."

For more information on the event please contact The Venue on 01691-684840 or niall.broe@tnsfc.co.uk



Twenty-six teams have registered so far for a footballing five-a-side event Men Uniting for Charity, that will take place at The New Saints' Park Hall Stadium, Oswestry, next month. For details, call 01691-684840.



The Walford and North Shropshire College County Cup-winning team squad was made up of Stewart Edkins, Greg Fletcher, Connor Monk, Ryan Pryce, James Jones, Jordan Wells, Ryan Kershaw, Dylan Jones, Fisnik Hajdari, Ben Richards, Mark Mutch, Liam Walker, Liam Edwards, George Mitten and Rhys Cooper.

Coach's delight at cup glory

THE Walford and North Shropshire College team claimed the County Cup with a hard-fought 2-0 victory against a strong Thomas Telford school team.

In an evenly contested game, both teams played some terrific exciting football but struggled to create any clear-cut chances.

But the deadlock was finally broken two minutes before the half-time break when the ever impressive Ryan Kershaw scored with an excellent free-kick that flew into the bottom corner from 20 yards out.

Buoyed by the goal, Walford and

North Shropshire College started the second half really well and within minutes of the restart, the advantage was increased when James Jones rose highest to head home a corner kick.

Control

They continued to defend really well and always looked in complete control, while keeper Greg Fletcher was alert enough to thwart their Telford opponents with a fantastic save with only a few minutes left.

Coach Steven Evans was thrilled to lift the trophy.

"I am delighted with my players," he said.

"The lads keep improving with every game."

"We changed our shape tonight due to injuries and for the players to adapt to what I asked them to do was really pleasing, as we hadn't practised it before."

"I thought we were superb. We were disciplined defensively and never really looked troubled but looked dangerous on the break."

"It's a great competition to win and great for WNSC to win it."

Morda end in defeat as Rovers miss out

DESPITE enjoying the bulk of the play, Morda United slipped to defeat in their final match of the season when being edged out 2-1 away to Shifnal United 97.

It meant a losing finish in the last game in charge for departing manager Craig Rogers whose one-time title chasers had to settle with third position in the Meridian Regional League premier division.

Morda travelled to this midweek game with a just 11 players but dominated the first half hour, with Chris Bishop going close with a lob, only for the hosts to take the lead against the run of play following a cross.

The visitors were again the dominant force in the second half but failed to turn their superiority into goals.

Bishop went the closest to scoring when his lob hit the crossbar but, with 20 minutes remaining, Shifnal doubled their lead with a header at the far post from another cross. Morda stuck to their task and were rewarded five minutes from the end when Jack Hughes tapped home after good work by Shawn Melussi on the left.

Unfortunately, a second goal, and the point that might have secured the runners-up spot, eluded Morda - leaving boss Rogers with a third place finish in his final season.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ FC Oswestry Town's hopes of runners-up spot in the Meridian Regional League division one were dashed following a storming finish to the season from their closest rivals Wroxeter Rovers.

Having finished their fixtures a few weeks back, Town could only watch as Rovers closed the gap with a goal-laden winning run in their remaining games against weakened opposition, before moving into second place with a superior goal difference after drawing 2-2 with Rock Rovers in their last game.

Wroxeter made the most of their games in hand as they notched a crucial 4-1 success at champions Childs Ercall, before hammering Cleve Hill 9-0. Then, last midweek they trounced Brown Cleve 8-1 before picking up the point they needed following their 2-2 draw against Rock Rovers.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ PLAYER-boss Graeme McGill ended his term in charge of Guilsfield reserves with a trophy as his side lifted the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League Consolation Cup with a 4-2 victory over Kerry reserves in the final at Berriew.

A Luke Francis penalty awarded for handball gave the Guils an eighth minute lead but Kerry, despite losing keeper Lee Jones with a knee injury, hit back with two quick goals from Luke Mumford to lead 2-1 at half time. But McGill's side dominated the second half to lift the cup with two goals from Mark Davies and one from James Langford to seal a 4-2 victory.

Guilsfield, meanwhile, will hold their presentation night and dinner on Friday, June 6 at The Kings Head while the juniors will present their awards the following evening at the Community Centre.

The Huws Gray Alliance AGM takes place at Porthmadog on Saturday, June 14 where Guils striker Danny Barton will receive the league's Golden Boot.

SPORT

Martial Arts
Magnet sticks to the winning trail
Page 46



Football
College team net County Cup spoils
Page 47



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Leaders call a halt to Criftins

CRIFTINS A suffered a jolt to their challenge in the Oswestry and District Bowls League division one after crashing 9-1 (164-123) at early leaders Johnstown A.

The 2012 champions returned home with their tails between their legs, Sandra Barker their only winner to 17.

Criftins slipped into third spot alongside WHITTINGTON A who themselves succumbed 7-3 (154-137) at bottom club LLANYMYNECH A.

Roger Candlin's 21-9 verdict led the way for Llany who had a clean sweep in the front four, while Dale Pritchard and Paula Worden both won to 14. Ben Hampson (21-13) was the best for the visitors with his sixth win in seven outings.

CHURCH A are up to fifth after their 8-2 (151-114) home success against lowly Johnstown B. Steve Lewis taking the coppers to eight, closely followed by Steve Williams (21-10) and Travis Stokes (21-11).

Elsewhere, Ceiriog Valley A stormed into second spot with a 9-1 (164-88) hammering of Corwen, while Flexsys A were 8-2 (161-121) home victors over Ruabon A.

WESTON RHYN moved up to second place in division two with a 10-0 (168-91) whitewash of visiting Llangynog A. Derek Taylor leading the romp to three while John Gale, who stepped up from the C team, won to eight.

Up to third are LLANRHAEDR A with a 9-1 (54 shots) home beating of BLACK LION, Ian Jones the best to 10 and Emyr Roberts to 11. Mike Jones (21-18) bagged a consolation for the Lion.

YE OLDE CROFTE A are also going well in fourth, with Andy Knott's 21-5 win helping to see off GEORGE 8-2 (150-110). Iain Butler also prevailed to eight while Phil Laker remains unbeaten with a 21-10 response for the home side.

Despite a 21-8 success from Glenys Jones, CHURCH B remain bottom after their 9-1 (155-109) loss at CRIFTINS B whose Dave Poole was the best for the hosts, winning to four.

Fixtures for Tuesday, June 3: Division One: Corwen A v Johnstown A, Criftins A v Flexsys A, Cynwyd A v Ruabon A, Johnstown B v Chirk A, Llanymynech A v Ceiriog Valley A, Whittington A v Church A. Division Two: Church B v Johnstown C, Llangollen A v George, Llangynog A v Overton A, Llanyrhedra A v Griffiths C, Ye Olde Crofte A v Weston Rhyr A.

Welshpool hoping for sun

AFTER a rain-soaked weekend, Welshpool's cricketers will be hoping for brighter times ahead in the Shropshire County League division one when they visit Alberbury on Saturday.

The Maesydre side had been due to host second-placed Broseley last weekend as they looked to bounce back from their hefty 129-run loss at Lilleshall the week before.

But, like the rest of the league, they were forced to remain on the sidelines after torrential rain ravaged the fixture list, keeping them third from bottom.

The conditions were so bad that the match was called off the night before.

With the weather forecast improving this weekend, a young Pool side should have a chance

to get back on the pitch at Alberbury, who are lying in the upper reaches of the table.

"We've had mixed fortunes at Alberbury in the last few years," said opener Joe Birch.

"It's a small ground and they tend to bat first and look to get runs on the board.

"Our bowling has generally been very good, but the batsmen need to dig in a bit more. We are a young side, but hopefully the players will learn and start performing at this level."

Welshpool's prospects have not been helped with key all-rounder Rob Birch facing a lengthy spell on the sidelines with a badly cut hand.

MONTGOMERY will also be hoping for some action as they bid to push up towards mid-table in their trip to lowly Pontesbury.

Oswestry seek action

HAVING suffered their second abandonment of the season, Oswestry's cricketers will be desperate to return to the pitch for Saturday's home clash with Smethwick (noon).

There was little chance of any play in last week's trip to Old Hill, with the game being called off in early morning following torrential rain.

With the weather forecast more favourable this weekend, the Morda Road men will have their sights on climbing away from the basement regions in the Birmingham League division one.

And with two home games com-

ing up, Bromsgrove are the visitors the following week, skipper Mark Robinson knows they need to hit the ground running against sides whom he expects to be in the top half of the table.

"I can't see anyone running away with the league this season, everyone's capable of taking points off each other, so it's important to win our home games and make Morda Road a fortress," he said.

The batting is bolstered with Alex Huxley and Joe Carrasco both returning, while Sam Huxley is also expected to be fit from his rib injury.

Cardio tennis workout is a hit

OSWESTRY Tennis Club got the hearts beating when they ran its first Cardio Tennis event at the opening Great British Tennis Week-end.

The session proved a big hit with the club delighted by the response to the free session in the Oswestry sunshine.

"The club had never run Cardio Tennis before so we were delighted that 17 people took part, 10 of which were non-members," said organiser Gary Edwards.

"Everyone soon discovered why it is called Cardio Tennis as they were given a high energy work-out to the beat of the music using tennis drills and thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

"Most are keen to continue with the scheduled follow-on sessions on Saturday afternoons."

The sessions will run for seven Saturdays from May 24 through to July 5 between 2.30pm to 3.30pm. They are available to club members at £2 a session and to non-members at £4. The club is also offering special summer membership rates. Visit www.oswestrytennisclub.btcc.co.uk for more details.

Stevens is appointed

DAN STEVENS, who enjoyed terrific success with Ellesmere's young guns last season, has been appointed new boss of the club's first team.

Stevens helped guide the youth team to three trophies, the Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup, the Midland Floodlit Youth Cup and the Minor League Cup while finishing runners-up in the Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier North.

Stevens takes over the reins from Delwyn Humphreys, who stepped down from the post earlier this month.

Class - Page 47

UEFA have this week confirmed that The New Saints will begin their summer European adventure in the second qualifying round of the Champions League.

The Saints have been advanced from the first qualifying round - where they were initially top seeded - after an all-Spanish final in this year's competition between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid led to a spare slot in the competition.

It meant that Swiss title winners Basel were promoted into the group stages while Austrian champions FC Salzburg also benefitted, advancing from the second qualifying round to the third.

"Both Cliftonville FC of Northern Ireland and The New Saints of Wales will now begin in the second qualifying round rather than first," confirmed a UEFA spokesman this week.

While the switch gives Welsh Premier champions TNS an extra two weeks to prepare, it could cost them earnings from winnings.

They would have faced potential beatable opposition from Andorra, Armenia, San Marino or Gibraltar in the first qualifying round.

Unseeded

Now, the Saints find themselves in the unseeded side of the draw, with SPL champions Celtic being the plum tie when the draw is made in Switzerland on Monday, June 23.

But there are plenty of other stiff tests with the likes of Bate Borisov of Belarus, Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), Sheriff Tiraspol (Moldova), FK Aktobe (Kazakhstan), Ventspils (Latvia) and HJK Helsinki (Finland) also in the other side of the draw.

And they could be drawn against two clubs they have met before, Ventspils of Latvia and last season's opponents Legia Warsaw from Poland who ran out 4-1 aggregate winners.

The second qualifying round first leg will be played on Tuesday or Wednesday July 15 or 16 with the return leg the following week.

The Saints, currently on a break before returning to training early next month, have announced a change in their management structure.

Craig Harrison, who was previously director of football, will now take on the role of head coach and Carl Darlington will move to take over duties as first-team coach due to his work commitments.

Harrison joined the Saints as the director of football in December, 2011, working under Darlington who works as a senior manager at the Welsh Football Trust.

Meanwhile, hot-shot Mike Wilde is delighted to pledge his future to the Saints after putting pen to paper on a new deal.

The 30-year-old marksman played a key part in the Saints' double winning campaign, scoring 16 goals in the league while also netting the winner in the 3-2 Welsh Cup final triumph against Aberystwyth Town.

Focus

"Short term, I am really looking forward to the UEFA Champions League, and my main focus now is on who we are going to be drawn against."

This is the second spell for Wilde with the Saints, after he previously joined the club back in 2002 before he then moved on to Fleetwood and Chester City where he netted a bumper 36 goals during the 2010/2011 season.

Wilde returned to the Saints the following season and proved an instant hit again by scoring 25 league goals to win the Welsh Premier League Golden Boot.

Meanwhile, The New Saints have secured land with Shropshire Council to

Rhys is on the crest of a wave



Improving sailor Rhys Chandler is celebrating after his best finish so far in the International Topper Class Association series. The Marches School talent bagged an 11th-place result at the latest competition, at Grafham. Rapid - Page 46

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